

## The Prototype Spiritual Life: Enduement cf. Indwelling; the Prototype System: Jesus, the True Celebrity; Posse non Peccare: Jesus Was “Able not to Sin”

### IV. The Prototype Spiritual Life

1. The Father invented a perfect plan to sustain the Lord during the Incarnation. It may be described as an experiment through which it would be determined if the true humanity of Jesus could remain impeccable while facing the temptations and trials common to *cosmos diabolicus*.
2. It may be referred to as the Great Power Experiment since its capacity to succeed was totally dependent upon the indwelling power and consistent filling of the Holy Spirit.
3. Prior to the Incarnation of Jesus no human had ever possessed the uninterrupted indwelling and filling ministries of the Holy Spirit. There was the ministry of enduement which was a temporary filling of the Spirit provided to certain persons for specific purposes:
  - 1) The writers of the Old Testament canon whose books are organized in three categories: (1) The *Torah* or first five books of the Bible, also called the Pentateuch, (2) the *Nebhi'im* containing the prophets, and (3) the *Kethubim* which includes the writings.
  - 2) Joseph received enduement for wisdom and leadership to protect the Jews while in Egyptian captivity. (Genesis 41:38–40)
  - 3) Moses and the seventy elders were empowered to provide leadership to the Israelites in the Jornada. (Numbers 11:17, 25)
  - 4) Bezalel \bez'-a-lel\ and Oholiab \ō-hō'-li-ab\ had enduement for wisdom in craftsmanship for the construction of the tabernacle and its accouterments. (Exodus 31:2–6; 35:30–35)
  - 5) Certain men among the judges: (1) *Othniel* \oth'-ni-el\ (Judges 3:10), (2) *Gideon* (6:34), (3) *Jephthah* \jef'-tha\ (11:29), and (4) *Samson* (13:25; 14:6; 15:14).
  - 6) The kings of the united monarchy: (1) *Saul* (gained 1 Samuel 10:9–10; lost, 16:14), (2) *David* (1 Samuel 16:12–13), and (3) *Solomon* (had lost enduement and is advised about how to regain it in Proverbs 1:23).
  - 7) Daniel: (1) before Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:8), (2) before Belshazzar (5:11–14), and (3) before Darius (6:3).
  - 8) Zacharias the father of John the Baptist (Luke 1:67).
4. Since Jesus Christ was born trichotomous, with body, soul, and human spirit, He was born as Adam was created. Therefore, our Lord was filled with the Spirit from birth.
5. To remain perfect, our Lord had to stay inside the prototype spiritual life. However, He had greater temptations to exit the prototype spiritual life beyond more than we can comprehend.



6. Therefore, God the Holy Spirit sustained the humanity of Christ during the thirty-three years of the dispensation of the hypostatic union.
7. John 3:34 teaches that the Holy Spirit was not given by measure to the humanity of Christ. "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without limitation."
  - 1) There was no limitation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit because Jesus Christ's humanity was born into the prototype spiritual life, and He remained filled with the Spirit from the point of His birth.
  - 2) Inside the prototype spiritual life, there was no limitation on the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit in sustaining our Lord.
  - 3) Therefore, inside the prototype spiritual life was the place of the filling of the Spirit.
8. This summary of the hypostatic union and the independent function of each of the two natures make clear that Jesus Christ, beginning with the virgin birth, is the unique personality of all human history. He is the world's only true celebrity, a status noted by R. B. Thieme, Jr.:

What is a celebrity? Someone who is glamorous, someone who has status in life, someone with great ability and talent? What happens to celebrities in the human realm? They deteriorate; they lose their ability and their popularity; they grow old; their glamour fades; they die! Did you ever see a football player ten years after he was washed up as a professional? Three hundred pounds of flab! Have you ever seen a movie queen after her heyday? If she is working, she is playing character roles! A true celebrity is perfect. A believer with any knowledge of doctrine would never make a celebrity of a human being! Our true Celebrity is perfect; He has neither a beginning nor an ending. (pp. 5-6)

Jesus Christ ... has never changed His essence for anyone or anything. His character remains intact and will continue to do so throughout time and eternity. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

The true Celebrity of Christianity knew every person in the world from eternity past. He has always known every need, every problem, every heartache, every frustration in your life. He has gone through the entire angelic conflict without being inconsistent or unstable in any way. That's our Celebrity!<sup>1</sup> (p. 6)

9. The Magi understood this reality while the Jews, who were the experts in Judaic theology, were still entangled in rituals that forecasted the Lord's First Advent.

It is clear that those who are the spiritual leaders of Judah have no interest in the possible fulfillment of Micah's prophecy. They know the passage academically but as unbelievers they do not associate it with a literal fulfillment.

The spiritual leaders of Judah were interested in a king to unseat Herod, with no thought of a God-Man Savior. To this circumstance Dr. D. A. Carson writes:

... though Jesus was the Messiah, born in David's line and certain to be Shepherd and Ruler of Israel, it was the Gentiles who came to worship him.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Celebrityship of Jesus Christ* (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1973), 5-6.

<sup>2</sup> D. A. Carson, "Matthew," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein (Grand Rapids: Regency Reference Library, 1984), 8:88.



V. *Posse non Peccare*

1. It is not difficult to understand *non posse peccare*, the principle that, in His undiminished deity, the Person of Jesus Christ is “not able to sin”; to assume otherwise would be blasphemous.
2. However, some have more difficulty understanding *posse non peccare*, the principle that, in His true humanity, the Person of Jesus Christ was “able not to sin,” by concluding He did not have the *ability* to sin. The fact is He did, and this needs to be explained.
3. Jesus Christ was born trichotomous possessing a physical body, a soul, and a human spirit. This set up the prototype system by which His true humanity was able to grow in grace and acquire the knowledge necessary to confront the external challenges of *cosmos diabolicus*.
4. Established are the facts that His body’s DNA was not programmed with a sin-nature gene and Adam’s original sin was not imputed since there was no target provided for it. However, He did have free will and therefore the ability to make choices.

