

The Strategic Victory on the Cross

Easter, April 17, 2022

I. Introduction:

1. In the Church Age, the precedent for the Christian way of life is established by Jesus Christ in the First Advent.
2. The same system that empowered our Lord in the Incarnation is the same system we are privileged to utilize in the Church Age.

John 7:37 Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

v. 38 “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water’ [see: **Jeremiah 17:13**].”

v. 39 But this He spoke of the Holy Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (NASB)

John 15:10 “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love [**the Operational Divine Dynasphere**]; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love [**the Prototype Divine Dynasphere**].”

3. The Prototype system was designed by God especially for utilization by the true humanity of Jesus Christ during the Incarnation.
4. The system the Church-Age believer may utilize is the Operational Divine Dynasphere. Precedence for the Operational System is taken from the Prototype System.
5. Consequently, we do not consult the Law of Moses for our guidance in executing the Christian Way of Life, but the Law of Christ.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Ephesians 2:15 He abolished in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations.

7. The enabling power for the Prototype System for Christ became the filling of the Holy Spirit and its extension into the Operational System for Church-Age believers.

Romans 8:2 The law of the Holy Spirit of everlasting life through the agency of Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of the sin nature and spiritual death.

v. 3 For the Mosaic Law is powerless in that it is weak through the sin nature. God, having sent the Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and as a substitute for sin condemned the sin nature in the flesh,

v. 4 in order that the legal requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Holy Spirit. (EXT)

8. In Hebrews 12:2, the NIV Bible refers to Jesus Christ as the Pioneer and Perfecter of our doctrine.
9. The source of power, which enabled Him to fulfill this objective and complete the mission of Operation Reconciliation, was the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit.

II. Development of the Doctrine of the Sustaining Ministry of the Holy Spirit

1. First, we establish that Jesus Christ was filled with the Holy Spirit from the Virgin Birth to physical death.

John 3:34 “Jesus Christ, whom God the Father has sent, keeps on speaking the words of God; for God gives not the Holy Spirit without measure.” (EXT)

2. During the Incarnation, the ministries of the Holy Spirit were available to Jesus Christ without limitation.
3. Because of His Virgin Birth and the fact He was perfect in His true humanity, He was born as Adam was created.
4. God’s plan for the dispensation of the Incarnation called for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to sustain the true humanity of Messiah:

Isaiah 11:2 For the Holy Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him [G1: filling of the Holy Spirit], the spirit of wisdom and understanding [G4: Spiritual Momentum], the spirit of counsel and virtue, the Spirit of knowledge and respect directed toward God the Father [Gs5&8: Personal love toward God]. (EXT)

5. Thus, the prototype divine dynasphere was established at the Virgin Birth.

Dispensations:
Shows
Incarnation

Divine Dynasphere:
Jesus Inside



6. Inside this system, Jesus Christ matured very quickly both spiritually and physically:

Luke 2:40 The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (NASB)

7. Christ advanced through the various stages of momentum testing which is documented by several passages in Hebrews:

Hebrews 2:10 For it was fitting for God the Father, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Pioneer [ἀρχηγός¹ (*archēgós*): “Jesus”] of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (NET)

Hebrews 2:18 Because He [**Jesus**] Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 We do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One Who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet without sin.

8. During the Incarnation, Jesus was continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 4:14 Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit, returned to Galilee, and news about Him spread throughout the surrounding countryside.

9. He was able to endure Evidence Testing² before Lucifer through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 4:1 Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

¹ “ἀρχηγός”: 1. One who has a preeminent position, *leader, ruler, prince*, 2. one who begins something in a series thereby providing impetus for further developments, 3. one who begins or originates, hence the recipient of special esteem, originator, founder. Hebrews 2:10. (Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, 3d ed., rev. and ed. Frederick William Danker [Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000], 138–39]. See also: Acts 3:15; 5:31.

² For a review of the “Evidence Testing of the Humanity of Christ,” see: R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Christian Suffering*, 3d ed., (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 173–85.



10. Jesus prophesied the extension of the prototype Divine Dynasphere into the Church Age just prior to His ascension with this prophecy;
Acts 1:8 “... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witness both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.
11. Jesus Christ worked miracles and performed acts of healing through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit:
Matthew 12:28 “If I [Jesus] cast out demons by the Holy Spirit, and I do, then the kingdom of God has come before you.”
12. The deity of Christ could have performed a miracle at any time. But to have done so would have violated the salvation plan of God whereby Messiah in true humanity was required to maintain impeccability throughout the Incarnation.
13. All acts of miracles and healing were performed in accordance with (1) the plan of God, (2) the fulfillment of prophecy, or (3) the illustration of doctrinal principles.
14. Consequently, they were executed not from His deity but the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. This is the Doctrine of *Kénōsis*:
***Kénōsis*³** is based on the fact that the union of the deity of Christ to unglorified but true humanity is a necessary factor in His humiliation. The doctrine of *kénōsis* recognizes that during the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union, our Lord voluntarily restricted the independent use of His divine attributes for the execution of God the Father’s plan, will, and purpose for the Incarnation. He did this in compliance with the Father’s plan for the strategic victory of the angelic conflict.
15. Obviously, functions of His deity were unaffected in those areas outside the salvation plan of God. For example, His omnipotence continued to function by holding the universe together.
16. Sir Isaac Newton boldly stated to fellow mathematician Richard Bentley that, “The cause of gravity is what I do not pretend to know.”

³ κένωσις (*kénōsis*): “empty.” During the dispensation of the hypostatic union, Jesus Christ voluntarily restricted the independent use of His divine attributes in compliance with the Father’s plan for the Incarnation.



17. Both he and mathematicians who followed have remained flummoxed about the “cause of gravity.” Therefore, we boldly go where no mathematician has gone before by appealing to the “source of truth” for the answer. We find it in:

Colossians 1:16 For by means of Him [Jesus Christ, v. 15] all things were created [κτίζω (*ktízō*): to produce from nothing, Gen. 1:1], both in the heavens and on earth, the visible things [the universe] and invisible things [mathematics], whether human governments or constituted authorities, or angelic rulers and authorities: all things through Him and for His purpose have been created.

v. 17 He eternally existed before all things, and by means of Him all things hold together [intensive perfect active indicative of συνίστημι (*sunístēmi*): emphasizes the results of a past action, i.e., gravity]. (EXT)

18. Such application of divine omnipotence was not utilized by His true humanity. Instead, He utilized the enabling power of the Holy Spirit from the moment of the Virgin Birth up to the time of His physical death. This is taught in:

Hebrews 9:14a ... how much more will the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God ... (NASB)

Principle: It is to this verse that we now turn our attention to observe the mechanics evident in the drama that existed between the immutability of Jesus Christ and the sustaining ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1. The phrase in Hebrews 9:14 we wish to note is, “Who [referring to Christ], through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself without blemish to God.”
2. It begins with the preposition, **διὰ** (*diá*), followed by the ablative of agency from the noun, **πνεῦμα** (*pneúma*): “spirit,” and should be translated, “through the agency of the Holy Spirit.”
3. Grammatically, agency refers to a person or thing through which power is exerted that produces an effect.
4. This ablative of agency is critical to our understanding the principle of the sustaining ministry of the Holy Spirit.

5. During His spiritual death on the cross, Jesus Christ was able to produce an action through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
6. Omnipotence is identified as the point of contact between Christ and the Holy Spirit by the ablative of **αἰώνιος (aiōnios)**: “eternal.”
7. When applied to the Holy Spirit in the ablative of agency it refers to His omnipotence—unlimited power.
8. The action produced through the agency of the Holy Spirit is described by the aorist active indicative of the verb, **προσφέρω (prosphérō)**: “to present an offering.”

culminative aorist: gathers into one entirety the decision made by Jesus Christ in eternity past to be judged on the cross for our sins but looks at it from the standpoint of existing results: The three hours of vicarious spiritual death in time.

active voice: Jesus Christ produces the action by offering Himself as that sacrifice.

Indicative mood: declarative: a statement of doctrinal reality.

1. On the cross, Jesus Christ presented Himself as our substitute through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
2. During the traumatic three hours on the cross, it was the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit which sustained Him.
3. That the Holy Spirit was successful in sustaining Christ on the cross is noted in the next word, the accusative predicate adjective,

ἄμωμος (ámōmos): blameless, unblemished. Refers to impeccability.

This offering was submitted in a state of impeccable perfection to **θεός (thós)**: God the Father.

Hebrews 9:14 how much more then shall the blood of Christ [analogy of His spiritual death], Who, through the sustaining power of the eternal Holy Spirit, has offered Himself as an impeccable sacrifice to God ...

1. The impeccability of Jesus Christ is critical to our salvation.
2. Two Latin phrases, developed by theology, clarify the impeccability of Christ:
 - a. **Undiminished Deity: non posse peccare**: “Not able to sin.” He is not able to sin, solicit to sin, to compromise with sin, or to have anything to do with sin except to judge it.

- b. **True humanity: *posse non peccare*:** Able not to sin.” This was possible because He remained in the prototype divine dynasphere sustained by the Holy Spirit.
3. We have noted from Hebrews 4:15 that He “has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet without sin.”
 4. Therefore, we can conclude that the impeccability of Jesus Christ in the Incarnation is based on three facts:
 - a. His deity is not temptable and is therefore impeccable.
 - b. His true humanity, because of the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit, was provided the power and the enablement to resist every temptation and remain impeccable.
 - c. Therefore, in hypostatic union, Jesus Christ was temptable but impeccable.
 5. This qualified Jesus Christ to go to the cross and die for our sins.

1 Peter 2:22 He committed no sins, nor was any deceit found in His mouth.

1 John 3:5 Indeed, you know that Jesus was revealed to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin.
 6. Once on the cross, the justice of God imputed to Him the personal sins of the entire world and judged them in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God.
 7. Hebrews 9:14 teaches us that He maintained His impeccability while being judged for our sins through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our consciences from dead works to worship the living God. (NET)

III. How Could the Holy Spirit Continue to Fill Christ on the Cross while He Was Being Judged for Our Sins?

1. The soul is the battleground between the old sin nature and the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh has desires that are opposed to the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit has desires that are opposed to the flesh, for these are in opposition to each other, so that you cannot do what you want. (NET)