

## Christ our Understanding High Priest Receiving Power over Temptation and Sin

*Christ is our High Priest who is praying for us to receive His Holy Spirit so that we may receive power to do His will. While on earth He was tempted by the common denominator of sin – the basis for every sin. In each case He overcame Satan's temptations. He is worthy to represent you before God because He is pure and sinless and because He understands the power of the temptations lodged against you.*

**1. The Priest represented God for his people:**

1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing **to pray for you**: but I will **teach you** the good and the right way:

**Note:** Samuel's job as priest, was to pray for the people and teach them the right way. A priest is an intercessor, which means, he prays to God for the people. Christ is our heavenly intercessor praying to God in heaven for us.

**2. Christ is our sympathetic - understanding High Priest:**

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an **high priest** which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in **all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

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For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin. Hebrews 4:15.

**Note:** Jesus is our High Priest who understands our weaknesses. He also was tempted in all points but never sinned. He is the one praying for you before God. So when you pray sincerely in His name for forgiveness and the power to overcome sin your prayers are answered. Being tempted in all points means He was tempted in the common denominator of sin. Sin is selfishness and all sins are basically divided in the three main categories – Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eyes, and the Pride of Life. (1 John 2:15-17).

## Overcoming the temptation to Doubt and Provocation to Prove Yourself to others.

**3. Context: Jesus was tempted by the Devil after He fasted for 40 days and nights.**

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

Jesus was tempted to prove himself to Satan.

#### 4. **Devil tempts us to sin in order to prove yourself:**

Matthew 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an **hungered.**

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

**Note:** Sometimes we are tempted to prove ourselves to someone by doing wrong. “If you’re a man you will do this...” “If you love me you will do it.” Or some may even say, “Since you’re are a Christian, you should help me,” even though helping them would be wrong. Or they may say, “If you are a good person, you will do what is wrong in order to help me out.” If you know who you really are, that you are a child of God, you don’t have to prove yourself to anyone.

**Note:** The Devil tempted Christ to doubt or have to prove His divine Son-ship, “if you are the son of God,” he challenged, “make these stones bread.” Christ did not fall for this temptation to prove himself. He knew who He was and is. He knew He was the Son of God. Many times we sin when we begin to doubt God or His love for us. We must believe in God and His love regardless of the situation. We must chose to trust God even when things are difficult.

It would have been wrong for Jesus to have to prove himself to the devil. Jesus is not the servant to the devil. He is the Son of God. He doesn’t have to make a trick to satisfy the devil.

**Name some doubts or times you were tested to prove you were a good person by doing something wrong.**

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Christ was challenged to doubt His relationship with God. We are Christians, followers of Christ. We should never forget that ... or doubt we belong to God.

#### 5. **How do we become a child of God?**

Joh 1:12 But as many as **received him**, (Christ) to them gave He power (authority – right) to become the sons of God, even to them that **believe on his name**:

#### 6. **We are His children:**

1John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

**Note:** If you have accepted Christ as your personal Savior – you are a child of God. Don’t doubt who you are: Don’t doubt the relationship you have with God:

#### 7. **Fighting doubt with Faith:**

Take the Shield of faith to overcome doubts. Faith is the opposite of doubt.

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the **shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

**Note:** Doubt is opposite of faith. It is by shielding ourselves with Faith – trusting the promises of God – trusting in what God has said, that protects us from the fiery arrows of doubt.

## Overcoming the Temptation of Appetite and Feelings.

### 8. Jesus overcame temptation to give in to all Appetites and Feelings:

Matthew 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an **hungered**.

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

**Note:** Hunger and thirst is the deepest human appetite. It is stronger than any other. After fasting for 40 days, the desire for food would be the strongest than any other appetite. It would be stronger than the need for sex, alcohol or any other addiction. Christ restrained himself, and exercised self-control, and would not allow himself to be controlled, or compelled by any hunger or physical feeling or need. The first family, Adam and Eve fell to sin by eating the forbidden fruit. They fell on the point of appetite. There are various types of appetite - food, sex, drugs, alcohol, expressing anger are things that effect our feelings.

### How did Christ overcome such a strong temptation?

### 9. Jesus overcame appetite by Trusting in God's Word:

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

**Note:** He trusted God's word over his physical feelings. He trusted in God's promises. Man lives not by bread only, but by trusting in every word from God. We are to trust in God's promises, ways and principles.

### 10. Jesus overcame all presumption – testing and taking God for Granted:

Matthew 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

### 11. What is tempting God?

Deuteronomy 6:16 Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

Exodus 17:7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the **chiding** of the children of Israel, and because they ***tempted*** the LORD, saying, **Is the LORD among us, or not?**

**Note:** God had delivered Israel from Egyptian slavery. He opened the Red Sea and gave them safe passage to the other side, and then destroyed Pharaoh and his pursuing army. Later the children of Israel were thirsty and began to chide Moses and insinuate that God did not care for them. They even accused Moses of bringing them out of Egypt to kill them with thirst in the desert.

**12. Jesus overcame the temptation of presumption by obeying God's word**

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt **not tempt** the Lord thy God.

**Note:** We are not to take God for granted or doubt His care for us. We are not to test him by doing something to see or prove that He really cares for us.

**13. Jesus overcame the Temptation of Power, Materialism, Prestige, Fame and taking the Easy way out:**

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and **sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;**

Matthew 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. (Easy way out)

**Note:** Satan promised Christ all the kingdoms of the world and its glory if He would just bow down and worship him. He tempted Christ to sin by worshiping him as god . It was to try distract Jesus from fulfilling God's plan by going to the cross and dying for the sinners. The Bible commands us to worship only God. We are not to violate His commands to get anything we desire. Many are tempted to seek worldly fame, and fortune by sacrificing Biblical principles. They seek the things of this world and what money can buy. The Christian is looking forward to the world to come. The fame and fortunes of this world mean nothing to us who are on our way to heaven.

## **Overcoming the Temptation of Power, Materialism, Fame, and taking the Easy Way out by Compromise.**

**14. Jesus overcame the Temptation of Power, Materialism, Prestige, Fame and the Easy way out by Worshiping only God:**

Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt **worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

**15. You cannot serve two masters. Matthew 6:24.**

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon – (money).

**Note:** Jesus kept the principle of putting God first and serving – worshiping Him only. He did not compromise in order to gain worldly possessions or position. He would not take the easy

sinful way as to win back this world. He knew the cross would come before the crown and was willing to make the sacrifice.

**16. The Devil will leave when you put God first and resist temptation:**

Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt **worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

Matthew 4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

**Notice:** The Devil persistently tempted Jesus but in each case Jesus put God first and resisted him. When you show resolve in resisting temptation by putting God first – you will have the victory. Though the enemy may come at you with a different temptation you must continue to resist and eventually he will leave.

**17. You must Submit to God and Resist The Devil to defeat him:**

James 4:7 **Submit** yourselves therefore to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you.

**Note:** We must first submit to God, and then resist temptation. This means to surrender your heart to Him and allow Him to be your Lord and Master. When we put Him first through prayer, devotion, and obedience we will have strength to resist the Devil. With God's help the weakest saint is more than a match for the enemy. Christ was tempted throughout his entire life and ministry. In each case he stood fast on principle and never sinned.

**18. There was nothing in Jesus that would respond to the Devil's temptation:**

John 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and **hath nothing in me.**

1Peter 2:22 **Who did no sin,** neither was guile found in his mouth:

**Note:** Christ never sinned. There was nothing in Him that succumbed (gave in) to Satan's temptations. Therefore He won the right to represent us to God.

**19. Christ is the only Way to God:**

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way,** the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

**Note:** Christ is the only way to God. His righteousness, goodness, and perfect sacrifice gave Him the right to be our representative in Heaven before the Father.

**20. We are made Righteous (right before God) because of His Sacrifice:**

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be sin for us*, (Penalty of sin) who knew no sin; that we might be made the **righteousness of God** in him.

**Note:** In Christ we stand before God as Righteous – as though we never sinned. We have no goodness of our own to recommend us to God. It is only the goodness of Christ in our place and

His sacrifice that allows us to be saved. So when we pray we do so through Christ. That is why we pray, "In Jesus Name."

**21. We are strengthened By hiding - cherishing God's word in our heart:**

Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid (treasured) in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

**22. God Empowers us to Desire and to Do His Will:**

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will (desire) and to do of *his* good pleasure.

**Note:** If we ask God He will give us the desire and power to do His will.

**23. Jesus is able to save you no matter how far you have fallen.**

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

**Note:** There is no sin that He cannot save us from. There is no one beyond Christ's reach. He is committed to praying for your needs.

**24. He is praying for you before the heavenly Father – so you may have help and strength to do what is right.**

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever **liveth to make intercession for them.**

**25. God's Spirit helps us to do His will.**

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**26. Would you accept Jesus as your personal intercessor - the one who prays for you to be strengthen over sin and Satan?**

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