

Eight Problem-Solving Devices in the Prototype; Posse non Peccare: Able not to Sin: Jesus' Volition Vulnerable to Temptation; Kenosis & Evidence Testing: Doctrine Provided Effective Defense, Matt 4:1-4

27. Inside the prototype system, the Lord was able to utilize eight problem-solving devices to resolve any challenges to His status quo perfection.
28. Within the system these problem-solvers were; (1) the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit, (2) the faith-rest drill, (3) grace orientation, (4) doctrinal orientation, (5) a personal sense of destiny, (6) personal love for God, (7) unconditional love for man, and (8) sharing the happiness of God.
29. Prior to the ascension and session, the deity of Christ was inseparably united with His unglorified humanity; a condition referred to theologically as the "humiliation of Christ."
30. This humiliation is further amplified by the fact that, although His humanity was absent a sin nature and as a result the imputation of Adam's original sin at physical birth, He was vulnerable to volitional sin.
31. This situation is recognized by the Latin term *posse non peccare*: able not to sin. The word "able" (*posse*) implies that sin was possible were it not for certain enabling assets available to Him.
32. Definition of terms is helpful:

Able [from L *habitus*¹]: having sufficient power [the enabling power of the Holy Spirit], skill [the three spiritual], or resources [Bible doctrine resident in the soul] to accomplish an object [the cross]. Marked by intelligence [human and spiritual IQ], knowledge [ἐπίγνωσις], skill [sophisticated spiritual life], and competence [wisdom]. More at HABIT.

Habit [from L *habitus*]: manner of conducting oneself: bearing; the prevailing disposition or character of a person's thoughts and feelings: mental makeup; a settled tendency or usual manner of behavior; a behavior pattern acquired by frequent repetition or physiologic exposure that shows itself in regularity or increased facility of performance; an acquired mode of behavior; a way of acting fixed through repetition.²

33. Our Lord so completely inculcated the teachings of the Old Testament that He "developed the habit" of relying upon its guidance under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to execute to perfection the prototype spiritual life.
34. During the Incarnation the Lord made no independent use of His divine attributes to benefit, glorify, or provide for Himself.
35. In all circumstances when divine power was required, He depended on the omnipotence of the Father for His logistics and on the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit for the function of the prototype system.

Kenosis and Evidence Testing.

1. A passage that clearly documents the doctrine of *kenōsis* is the Lord's evidence testing in Matthew 4. In the first four verses He is challenged with regard to personal logistics:

¹ "Habitus: condition, habit, nature, character, disposition, attitude" (D. P. Simpson, *Cassell's Latin and English Dictionary* [New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1987], 103).

² *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v.: "able" and "habit."

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

v. 2 - And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

v. 3 - And the tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God (and You are), command that these stones become bread."

v. 4 - But He answered and said, "It is written [**Deuteronomy 8:3b**], 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

2. Lucifer's temptation sought to capitalize on the extreme hunger from which the Lord's human body suffered by enticing Him to utilize His personal omnipotence to perform a miracle.
3. The Creator of the universe was perfectly capable of transforming a rock into a roll. But to have done so would have violated His assignment to resolve problems within the prototype system.
4. He had learned doctrine within that system and the Holy Spirit recalled for Him the principle under which he was to function: Doctrine first; logistics are God's problem.
5. To have utilized His own omnipotence would have resulted in the independent use of a divine attribute that was not available to other members of the human race.
6. It was the Father's omnipotence upon which the Lord was to rely for logistics and the verse He quoted out of Deuteronomy enabled Him to endure the hunger and stand fast with the Word of God.
7. Note that there is power in the Word. But this power cannot be tapped outside the divine dynasphere. The on switch for accessing this power is confession alone to God alone.
8. The fulfillment of God's plan for a person's life is dependent upon daily function within the operational system provided. The Lord proved this system functional and sufficient in the Incarnation.
9. The divine dynasphere is a power system that when utilized enables the believer to develop personal integrity and then from this innate resource to execute the sophisticated spiritual life.