

SANCTUARY STUDY LESSON #30

THE ATONEMENT PART E

THIRD PERSON ACCORDING TO MATHEW.

INTRODUCTION

All italics are in the original text. All other emphases are the Authors unless noted. All Scriptures are from the K.J.V. Bible unless stated otherwise.

There are 88 times in the gospels where the phrase “Son of Man” is used. In all instances, when spoken by Jesus, except once in Matthew, this phrase is given in the third person. Here is what it says in Matt. 16:13. “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that **I** the Son of Man am?” This is the only place where the “Son of Man” is given in the first person in Mathew! I think this phenomenon is significant in that the holy spirit was not until after Christ had been inaugurated into the office of Mediator on the day of Pentecost. The spirit was here. YES, but not in its fullness. I will explain more on this later.

Let us pray:

Holy Father, bless us now as we open Your word. May the holy spirit give us wisdom to understand. Please forgive all our sins and create a new spirit within us. Cause us to think and act in ways that are pleasing in Your sight. I ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

I will give only the references to the “Son of Man” that are in Matthew, there are thirty verses with thirty-two references to the “Son of Man.” You can look up the references in Mark, Luke, and John by using your Bible on computer. Just enter, “Son of Man” in your search engine and restrict the search to Mark only and that will give you all the places in Mark where the phrase, “Son of man”, is used. You can do the same for the other books of the Gospels.

Here are the 32 times the “Son of Man” phrase used in Matthew. We will only look at Matthew for brevity sake.

1. Mat. 8:20. “And Jesus saith unto him, the foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head.” Could Jesus have said “I have nowhere to lay My head” in the first person? Yes, but He did not.

NOTE: Why did Jesus speak in the third person? Could it be that He meant this phrase to be understood in the third person? I think Jesus meant it to be understood that way. Christ’s life on this earth had to be developed. He had to start out as a baby and He grew up into childhood, youth, and manhood, developing as He grew. Luke 2:52. “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Jesus had to develop this third person’s personality as He grew from childhood to adulthood. It was a new experience for the Son of God to become the Son of Man! He was experiencing the uniting of His divine spirit with the human spirit that He received when He became incarnate. This was a development in His life that had not hitherto existed. Christ was developing the personality of the Son of Man—the combining of His divine spirit with that of His human spirit—**called the third person, the holy spirit!** This understanding of the Son of man makes clear all the statements in prophecy concerning the third person as the holy spirit. He was the Son of God, yes, but that character that He possessed as the Son of God was not evident in Him as the “Son of Man” it had to be developed as He grew and was not completed until He expired on the cross. The “life of His life.” (RH January 5, 1911:6) is that life He developed here on this earth as the “Son of Man”. It is His life “woven in the loom of heaven (while on this earth) without one thread of human devising.” In Christ Object Lessons Pg. 311:4 we are told. “This robe, **woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity** (while here on earth) **wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us.**” (Parentheses added) (Emphases mine) This is that third person holy spirit that He gives to us after His ascension to the throne of God as the mediator! That third person, omnipresent gift, which is the holy spirit given at Pentecost! It is the mind of Christ imparted within our mind, thus we become one with the Son and His Father.

2. Mat. 9:6. “But that ye may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.” He could have said “I have power on earth to forgive sin.” But

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He didn't. Jesus is speaking of Himself as the third person.

3. Mat. 10:23. "But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of Man be come."

NOTE: He could have said until "I come". But He didn't. He was speaking in the third person, as the third person. I think He meant it of Himself as the third person. Notice the context of this statement, "I come". I do not see this as Him speaking of the second coming but of His coming on the day of Pentecost as the holy spirit! It is evident that the disciples spread the gospel to every creature under heaven in their generation. (See Col. 1:23) So this coming must be the coming of the holy spirit as the Comforter, third person, Son of Man. Turn to John 7:39. "(But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should (future tense) receive: for the **Holy Ghost was not yet; given** because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" I crossed out the word given because it was not in the original. Holy spirit, Son of Man, Son of God, all are synonymous. It is the life and victories that Christ worked out as the Son of Man that He gives to us in the gift of the holy spirit on the day of Pentecost! That is why the Apostle declared that if we have Christ in us, we do not sin. 1John 3:9. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His (Christ) seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." Satan cannot make you sin when you cling to Christ in this fashion!

4. Mat. 11:19. "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children."

NOTE; Those children are His disciples. Who is wisdom? Aren't we told that Jesus is made wisdom to us? 1 Cor. 1:30 "But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto **us wisdom**, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

5. Mat. 12:8. "For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath day."

NOTE: Could He have said "I am Lord of the Sabbath day?" I think He is trying to get us to understand that this phrase He is using is connected to the third person idea.

6. Mat. 12:32. "And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the holy ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

NOTE: Could Jesus have said, "whoever speaks against Me?" But He didn't. He was magnifying the third person idea. Turn in your Bibles to John 14:16-18. "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another **Comforter** that He may abide with you for ever; V. 17. Even the spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." This word for **Comforter, Parakletos**, is used only five times in the Bible and all are found in the books of John. Four times in John and once in 1 John 2:1. John knew what it meant and how he wanted it understood. That is what makes this word so important! 1 John 2:1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Who is the advocate? Jesus Christ the righteous! This word advocate is word G3875 Parakletos and is the exact same word in John 14:16 translated **Comforter, Parakletos**. The exact same word. It is Jesus the Comforter, and Jesus the Advocate. They are the same word meaning that John meant Parakletos to be understood as the Son of God, as the same person. Can you see this truth?

Now let us return to John 14:16. "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you **another** Comforter," the word for another is G243 in Strong's "**ALLOS**"

In "The Complete Word Study New Testament" by Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D. there is a section called "Lexical Aids to the New Testament" from this section I gleaned the following;

Word G243 "**ALLOS**" which is the word translated "**ANOTHER**" in John 14:16, and is defined as "another numerically but of the same kind."

We will look at some Scripture that use "**ALLOS**" to help us understand this definition. The first is in Matthew 5:39. "But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the **other**

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also.” The word **other** is “**ALLOS**”, notice it is not a different person but a different part of the same person. “Another of the same kind”.

The next is found in Matthew 12:13. “Then saith He to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the **other.**” “**ALLOS.**” Once again it is the same person but another part of the same person. That shows that the holy spirit is another part of Christ. It is His spirit, His intellect, His breath and mind that He gives us as another of the **same kind** of Himself. See also Matthew 13:5-8. It is evident that allos “another” does not necessarily always refer to a different being! This Comforter (Jesus, the Son of Man) was given to abide with us forever!” That is, the mind of Christ is, to abide with us forever!

In 8 MR. 49:3. It says: “The **Saviour** is our Comforter (the holy spirit). This I have proved Him to be.” (Parentheses mine)

In verse 17 we read “even the spirit of truth.” Hold on, the spirit **OF TRUTH**. Look at verse 6 of John 14. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.” Who is **THE TRUTH?** It is JESUS! So, what is the spirit **OF** truth? It has to be the **spirit of Jesus!** Let us continue in verse 17, “Even the spirit of **truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” “**He dwelleth with you,**” that is present tense, and means that Jesus was dwelling with them right then. “**And shall be in you,**” That is future tense. Jesus would come back, after He was glorified, as the holy spirit! V. 18. “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” Jesus makes it clear that it is Himself that is coming back as the spirit. Most preachers leave this verse out of their discourses.

Let us return to Matthew 12:32. “And whosoever speaketh a word against the **Son of Man**, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the holy ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”

NOTE: “If you speak against the Son of Man it shall be forgiven you,” even crucifying Him would be forgiven. But I am going away, and I am coming back as the holy spirit, you know, the third person of the Godhead, the Son

of Man, and if you speak against (the holy spirit), Me, when I speak to you as the holy spirit, then, that will not be forgiven you. “Not in this world neither in the world to come.” That is what is being said here.

7. Mat. 12:40. “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so, shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
8. Mat. 13:37. “He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man.” Once again, He is speaking in the third person indicating that He is developing the character of that third person. Which is the combination of the human and divine spirit of God and man, that third person holy spirit!
9. Mat. 13:41. “The Son of Man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;” He could have said, “I will send forth My angels” but He didn't. He is trying to get across that this “Son of Man”, the third person idea, is real.
10. Mat. 16:13. “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, whom do men say that I the Son of Man Am?” This is the only place in all 88 times where Jesus used this phrase in the first person, “I the Son of God Am” showing that the Son of Man is also the Son of God!

NOTE: Peter answered and said “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

11. Mat. 16:27. “For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.” It will be the real Jesus, the real Son of Man, and the real Son of God who comes the second time to take us home. He is trying to get us to understand that He is that third person, Son of Man. The combining of Himself, divinity, with humanity, is the formation of the third person in the Godhead. Christ combined with humanity is the development of the third person holy spirit which did not exist before!

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12. Mat. 16:28. "Verily I say unto you, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." He could have said, "Until they see Me coming."

NOTE: This also shows that the Son of God and the Son of Man are the same person mysteriously combined.

13. Mat. 17:9. "And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of Man be risen again from the dead."
14. Mat. 17:12. "But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise, shall also the Son of Man suffer of them."
15. Mat. 17:22. "And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of Man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:"
16. Mat. 18:11. For the Son of Man is come to save that which was lost."
17. Mat. 19:28. "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."
18. Ma. _20:18. "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death,"
19. Mat_20:28. "Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many."
20. Mat. 24:27. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so, shall also the coming of the Son of Man be."
21. Mat. 24:30. "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."
22. Mat. 24:37. "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.

23. Mat_24:39. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so, shall also the coming of the Son of Man be."
24. Mat. 24:44. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh."
25. Mat. 25:13. "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."
26. Mat. 25:31. "When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of his glory:" It is the Son of Man sitting on the throne that is the Son of God!

NOTE: It is the Son of Man that comes in His glory. It is a divine human that sits on the throne of glory! **This makes the saved the Royal Family of the Father and the Son!** It insures us that the immutable counsel of peace will be kept with us as long as God exists! This makes us members of the divine family of the Father and His dear Son!

27. Matt. 26:2. "Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of Man is betrayed to be crucified"
28. Matt. 26:24. "The Son of Man goeth as it is written of Him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It had been good for that man if he had not been born."
29. Mat. 26:45. "Then cometh He to His disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."
30. Mat. 26:64. "Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless, I say unto you. Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven"

This completes the 30 verses in Matthew that use the phrase "Son of Man", of which there are 32 uses of that phrase. Two verses use the phrase twice.

Now we will look at some quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy that are relevant.

Matt. 26:63. "But Jesus held His peace. And the high priest answered and said unto Him, I adjure thee by the

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living God, that Thou tell us whether Thou be the Christ, the Son of God.” Here is how the Spirit of Prophecy describes Christ’s answer:

Mar. 282:4, 5. “Every ear was bent to listen, and every eye was fixed on His face as He answered, ‘Thou hast said.’ A heavenly light seemed to illuminate His pale countenance as He added, ‘Nevertheless I say unto you, hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.’

“For a moment the divinity of Christ flashed through His guise of humanity. The high priest quailed before the penetrating eyes of the Saviour. . . . For a moment he felt as if standing before the eternal Judge, whose eye, which sees all things, was reading his soul, bringing to light mysteries supposed to be hidden with the dead.”

NOTE: As concerning the spirit which Jesus was portraying as the third person, Son of Man, we are told in John 7:39. “But this spake He of the spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy ghost was not yet ~~given~~, because that Jesus was not yet glorified.” Because the word, given, is italicized meaning it was added by the translators, we need to leave it out to see how that changes the meaning of the text.

You can readily see that now the text doesn’t mean that the spirit would be given later, (which it would be given later) but that it was not given because the Son of Man’s spirit had not been perfected yet, therefor it was not given as of yet!

John 4:24. “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” Since God the Father is a spirit so also is His Son of the same spirit.

Here is what DA 671:2 says about the office of the holy spirit. It reads: “In describing to His disciples the office work of the holy spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The holy spirit **was the highest of all gifts** that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. **The spirit was to be given** (future tense) as a **regenerating agent**, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to

this Satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the **Third Person** (Son of Man) **of the Godhead**, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world’s Redeemer. It is by the spirit that the heart is made pure. **Through the spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.** (Parentheses and Emphases mine).

NOTE: The **spirit** is the agency that develops the divine nature and combines the human nature with the divine nature. This is developing the divine nature within our minds just as the human nature was developed within Christ as the Son of Man.

Please understand that the word “His” in the phrase “Christ has given **His** spirit” signifies or means possession! It is “the Son of Man’s” spirit that is given, it is “the Son of Man’s” character that is impressed. Let us understand, the Son of Man had to work out our salvation in His life before the spirit could be! Because the Son of Man “is that spirit.” This is that gift of life He gives to every true believer in Christ for their redemption.

2Cor. 3:17, 18. “Now **the Lord is that spirit**: and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (freedom from sin). But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, **even as by the spirit of the Lord.**” Or “**of the Lord the spirit.**” (Margin). (Parentheses and Emphases mine)

Again, in full agreement with scripture the spirit of prophecy states in DA 827:3. “All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. **Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life. The holy spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties,** and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through co-operation with Christ they are

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complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence.”

NOTE: This is amazing! “**Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His Own life.**” He gives us the experience of that life He worked out as the Son of Man while on this earth. That is what we receive as the holy spirit of Christ given to us to be combined as one with our spirit when we receive that spirit of Christ! Can you believe this? It is true. We do not have to ever sin again! We can actually be just like Christ and live just like He lived, healing the sick, and all His other miracles, the other deeds he performed! Isn’t that amazing! Praise God for Christ! “**Through co-operation with Christ they (we) are complete in Him, and in their (our) human weakness they (we) are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence.**”

SW (SOUTHERN WATCHMAN) NOVEMBER 28, 1905:1, 2. “During the Jewish economy, the influence of God’s spirit had been seen in a marked manner, **but not in full.**”

NOTE: Wait a minute. Do you understand that? God’s spirit had been seen in a marked manner, but not in full.” Why? It was because Christ spirit was not yet combined with the human spirit. He had to be incarnated so that the divine and human spirits were both combined within one! That was not accomplished until Jesus cried “it is finished”, While He hung on the Cross, then the spirit was completed in its fullness and it could be given to man as the fullness of the Godhead! This is what was accomplished by Christ in His incarnation! Now let us return and finish the quote in SW.

“For ages prayers had been offered for the fulfilment of God’s promise to impart His spirit, and not one of these earnest supplications had been forgotten. Christ determined that when He ascended from this earth, He would bestow a gift on those who had believed on Him, and those who should believe on Him. What gift could He bestow rich enough to signalize and grace his ascension to the mediatorial throne? **It must be worthy of His greatness and His royalty. He determined to give His representative, the third person of the Godhead.** (The experience of the Son of Man, as the holy spirit, that is His life on this Earth). **This gift could not be excelled.** He would

give all gifts in one, and therefore the divine Spirit, that converting, enlightening and sanctifying power, would be His donation. {SW, November 28, 1905:1, 2}(Parentheses added, Emphasis mine).

NOTE: The statement “He determined to give His representative, the third person of the Godhead”, can be understood in two entirely different ways.

1. The spirit is a third person of the Godhead with being (substance, or body parts) and a personality of His own.
2. Or the holy spirit can be understood as being Christ Himself, His intellect, or mind, His own Personality (with no body parts), given to us to dwell inside of us! I hope you will let these next three statement from E.G.W. influence your decision on which is true?

DA 166:2. “**While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth.** He is withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, ‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ Matthew 28:20. While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, **His energizing presence is still with His church.**” DA 166:2}

Lt. 66-1894:18. “**We want the holy spirit, which is Jesus Christ.**” From E.G.W. new releases.

DA 669:2. “The holy spirit is **Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof.** **Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore, it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the spirit (His mind and personality) to be His successor on earth.** No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. **By the spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high.**” {DA 669.2}

NOTE: It is clear that the third person holy spirit does not have substance like a body because he was “**divested of humanity and the cumbrances of it**”! Notice also that the Saviour would be accessible to all! “**He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended to**

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Heaven!" This speaks of the holy spirit as being the **personality, or mind, of Christ!**

RH August 26, 1890:10. "The **reason** why the churches are **weak and sickly** and **ready to die**, is that the enemy has brought influences of a discouraging nature to bear upon trembling souls. **He has sought to shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter**, as one who **reproves**, who **warns**, who **admonishes** them, saying, "**This is the way, walk ye in it.**" **Christ has all power** in **heaven** and in **earth**, and He can strengthen the wavering, and set right the erring. He can inspire with confidence, with hope in God; and confidence in God always results in creating confidence in one another." {RH, August 26, 1890 par. 10}.

NOTE: The statement "he (Satan) has sought to shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter" has been accomplished by Satan in his false doctrine that the spirit is a third and separate being, with body parts, different from that of the Father or His Son!

I am coming to the belief that the phrase "the Son of Man" given in the third person, in the four gospels, is that third person of the Godhead mentioned in DA 671:2, quoted on page 5 of this lesson. This is significant in the light of the spirit of prophecy quotes just given! It is understandable that the Son of Man did not begin with the intelligence or understanding that was His prerogative before His incarnation.

Philippians 2:7. "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

NOTE: He had to learn just as we have to learn. He had a different body, it was human, and a different spirit, a human spirit, than while with His Father! He said in:

Hebrews 10:5. "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a **body hast** thou prepared Me."

NOTE: All this represents a third personality **but still only two individuals**. Christ had given all his prerogatives back into his Fathers hands when He was incarnate as a human. When Jesus said "a body hast Thou prepared for Me," the word, "Me," has to mean the same person, but in a different form. Did not Jesus pray to the Father to

glorify Him with the "glory He had with the Father before the world was?" John 17:5. This indicates a difference from that which He had before His incarnation!

Hebrews 2:14-18. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of **flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same**; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; **but He took on Him the seed (nature) of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren**, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. **For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted**, He is able to succour them that are tempted."

RH DECEMBER 15, 1891:9. "The gospel of Christ **becomes personality in those who believe**, and makes them living epistles, known and read of all men." RH December 15, 1891:9. (Parentheses and Emphases mine).

MH 422, 423. "Taking **humanity upon Him, Christ came to be one with humanity, and at the same time to reveal our heavenly Father to sinful human beings**. He who had been in the presence of the Father from the beginning, He who was the express image of the invisible God, was alone able to reveal the character of the Deity to mankind. **He was in all things made like unto His brethren. He became flesh even as we are. He was hungry and thirsty and weary. He was sustained by food and refreshed by sleep. He shared the lot of men; yet He was the blameless Son of God**. He was a stranger and sojourner on the earth--in the world, but not of the world; tempted and tried as men and women today are tempted and tried, yet living a life free from sin. Tender, compassionate, sympathetic, ever considerate of others, He represented the character of God, and was constantly engaged in service for God and man."

NOTE: If Christ, "in all things," was "made like unto His brethren," if "He shared the lot of men" then he had to start learning from infancy just like we do! He was 100% human, but yet 100% divine also. This is a mystery that is hard to understand. Are we not to take His divinity and combine it into our humanity in the same manner?

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Testimonies Vol 9, 68:2. “It was the Son of God who came to the world in human form. Laying aside His royal robe and kingly crown, He clothed His divinity with humanity, that humanity through His infinite sacrifice might become partakers of the divine nature and escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.” {9T 68.2}

NOTE: Just as we have to become partakers of the divine nature He had to partake of the human nature! His becoming human was at His conception in Mary’s womb. Our becoming partakers of the divine nature is also at our conception when we accept Christ, but it takes time to develop that divine nature. Just as Christ had to learn, and develop His human character, just so we have to learn and develop a divine character.

Christ became the Son of God in a new sense at His incarnation.

ISM 226:2. “While the Son of a human being, **He became the Son of God in a new sense.** Thus’, He stood in our world--the Son of God, yet allied by birth to the human race.” (Last two sentences of paragraph.)

NOTE: This all speaks of a learning experience for Christ. He developed His character, His intellect, over the period of His lifetime of thirty-three- and one-half years. But it, His character or His divine human mind, wasn’t completely developed until His death when He said “it is finished” on the cross! That is why the spirit was not yet (John 7:39) it had not been developed yet. We must understand that God is a spirit, so Christ was a spirit also from his birth as God’s only begotten Son. But His combined human and divine spirit or personality as the “Son of Man” was not complete until His death on the cross of Calvary. **Thus, was developed that third person of the Godhead!** Not till He had finished the work of the propitiation for redemption could that spirit be given! The Father and the Son could not save the human race until that character and spirit of the “Son of Man” had been completed and finished at the cross! This completed work of Christ is that gift that Christ gave, as the holy spirit, the gift of His experience as the Son of Man, that He perfected while living on this earth! As He gives us this life experience, we have to develop it also, while upon this earth, just as He did, before His death on the cross! This,

I believe, is the experience of the last generation to live upon this earth. An experience no other generation has ever experienced.

Let us pray:

Holy Father, please cause each one to see and understand and believe the truth for this time. May we all develop the character that Christ had developed at His death! Father I know that I have given much to consider in this lesson, but You have promised to reveal all things to Your people, that they might know You and be saved. You have also promised to write Your law into our minds and in our hearts. So please, send Your holy spirit that we might have Your mind combined with our minds to cause us to walk and act as Christ walked and acted while upon this earth. I ask this in the name of Christ, Your Son. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,

Virgil Prindle