

## Jesus Lived a Dependent, Spirit-Filled Life – Pt.2

Heb 2:14-18  
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### Introduction

1. Last week we learned that in everything Jesus did, he did by the guidance & empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
2. **In this sermon we'll consider whether Jesus ALWAYS depended on the Spirit, and why it matters.**

### A. Jesus lived by the Spirit because He chose to NOT rely on His divine attributes

1. The writer to the Hebrews made the most explicit statement about Christ's humanity
2. **Hebrews 2:14, 17 (NIV)** *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity ... <sup>17</sup>For this reason he had to be made like his brothers IN EVERY WAY .....*
3. **Hebrews 4:15 (BSB)** *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted IN EVERY WAY that we are, yet was without sin.*
4. What does it mean that Jesus was made like us in every way?
5. Was He really human in every way? Did He genuinely struggle against the challenges of life like us? Did He really suffer when He was tempted?
6. **Or did He have access to something extra that is unique to him and unavailable to us?**
7. **If He did, then how can He be our EXAMPLE?** (1 Pet 2:21; 1 John 2:6)
8. We have just touched on the crux of the matter.
9. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul had this to say about this matter
10. **Philippians 2:5-7a (RRV)** *Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who being in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself ....*
11. **"being in the form of God" (pres. part.) – continued to exist as God!**
12. **Phrases: did not grasp equality with God, but emptied Himself** (v.6b, 7a)
  - a. Whatever Paul is saying, He cannot be saying that Jesus ceased to be God, b/c in the first phrase he said he continued to exist as God!
  - b. If Jesus had ceased to be divine, He wouldn't have allowed the Jews to stone him for claiming to be God (Jn 10:27-33).
  - c. He would have said, **"STOP! I'm not God!"** And that would have ended the matter!
13. **Hebrews says that Jesus is 100% human; Paul says He is 100% God!**

14. **Philippians 2:7-8 (ESV)** ... <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death...
15. **Phrase: "emptied himself"** (v. 7a)
  - a. The verbal phrase, **"emptied Himself,"** is followed by 2 participial phrases, which lend additional information to the verbal phrase.
    - **Phrase 1:** taking the form of a servant (v. 7b)
    - **Phrase 2:** being born in the likeness of man (v. 7c)
  - b. **How did Jesus empty Himself?**
  - c. **By taking on the limitations of humanity!**
16. He set aside that which would be incompatible with living a truly human life. In this way He was made like us in EVERY WAY!
17. **Scholar & theologian, Dr. Gerald F Hawthorne:** "The Son of God willed to renounce the EXERCISE of His divine powers, attributes, prerogatives, so that he might live fully within those limitations which inhere in being truly human" (*Presence and Power*).

### B. Ways in which we can see that Jesus self-limited Himself in the use of His divine attributes

#### First: Jesus limited His omnipresence (present everywhere)

1. On earth, He wasn't in Galilee, Nazareth, & Jerusalem at the same time.
2. Yet Jeremiah said that God is omnipresent – He's everywhere at once!
3. **Jeremiah 23:24 (NIV2011)** *Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?"*
4. **Today He is in our hearts too and at the right hand of God at once!**

#### Second: Jesus limited His omniscience (all-knowing)

1. God is omniscient, meaning that He knows everything.
2. Yet Jesus chose to live within the confines of restricted knowledge
3. Last week we learned that at age 12 Jesus GREW in wisdom!
4. **Luke 2:52 (NIV)** *And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature ....*
5. And as an adult He didn't know everything intrinsically.
6. One day, speaking about the coming of the Day of the Lord, Jesus said:
7. **Mark 13:32 (NIV)** *No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*
8. Considering that Jesus has a divine nature and is fully God, that is indeed a startling thing to say, **UNLESS** you understand that Jesus chose to limit Himself to living within the confines of human existence.

9. **Objection:** how about the fact that Jesus ‘knew’ Philip, though they had never met? Doesn’t that prove that He was God? Not at all!
10. Other saints also received ‘knowledge’ outside of themselves
11. **Elisha** (2 Kgs 5:15-27)
  - a. When Elisha refused payment for the healing of Naaman, his servant Gehazi sought to secretly profit from this for himself.
  - b. So, he pursued Naaman to receive something from him
  - c. When he returned home, Elisha called him out on it, because he supernaturally ‘knew’ what Gehazi had done
12. **Peter** (Acts 5)
  - a. Though Ananias and Sapphira conspired to lie about their giving, the Holy Spirit revealed to him their deception
  - b. As a result, they both died in the public assembly before the Lord.
13. This shouldn’t surprise us, because Paul teaches that one of the gifts of the Spirit today is the gift of Spirit-inspired knowledge (1 Cor 12:8; 14:6).

**Third: Jesus limited His self-sufficiency (doesn’t need anything)**

1. He was thirsty (Matt 25:35), hungry (Matt 4:2), & weary (John 4:6).
2. Yet, God is completely self-sufficient & doesn’t need any of these!
3. **Acts 17:25 (NIV)** *And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.*
4. Jesus’ physiological needs demonstrate a self-limitation of sorts, because He didn’t access His divine attributes to overcome these needs.

**Fourth: Jesus limited His eternity (lives forever)**

1. He has lived forever and will live forever!
2. **Psalm 90:2 (NIV)** *Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*
3. Yet, He was born, grew up, and then died – just like us!

**Further evidence that Jesus set aside the use of His divine attributes:**

5. Jesus learned obedience, yet God is complete and perfect in every way!
6. Jesus was tempted, yet God cannot be tempted!
7. Jesus limited His omnipotence (all-powerful).
8. Did He really limit His omnipotence? We’ll look at that next.

**C. Others performed miracles as great as Jesus’s miracles**

1. I keep emphasizing that Jesus did not accomplish what He did by resorting to unique divine attributes He had, which no one else had.
2. He did it by the power of the HS. The same was true of His miracles!
3. **Others healed the sick, like Jesus**

- a. **Moses’** bronze serpent healed those who looked to it (Nu 21:4-9).
- b. **Peter & John** at the temple; even Peter’s shadow healed people! (Acts 3; 5:15), and **Paul** healed Publius (Acts 28:8)
- c. **HS** distributed gifts of healing to the churches (1 Cor 12:7-9)
4. **Others raised the dead, like Jesus**
  - a. **Elijah** (1 Kgs 17) and **Elisha** (2 Kgs 4) each raised a widow’s son.
  - b. **Peter** raised Dorcas back to life (Acts 9)
  - c. **Hebrews** says women received their dead, raised to life (Heb 11:35)
5. **Others were teleported, like Jesus**
  - a. **Elijah** was caught up in a whirlwind and transported to heaven in a chariot of fire (2 Kgs 2:11)!
  - b. **Peter**, awaiting trial & execution the next day, was asleep, chained between 2 soldiers, when an angel appeared, removed his chains, and led him past many guards and out of the prison (Acts 12:1-10)!
  - c. **Philip** was teleported from his appointment with the Ethiopian eunuch to a place called Azotus (Acts 8:39-40)
6. **Others miraculously fed others, like Jesus**
  - a. **Elijah** miraculously ensured that the widow of Zaraphath’s oil and flour never ran out, allowing her to feed everyone (1 Kgs 17).
  - b. **Elisha** similarly multiplied oil for a prophet’s widow so she could pay off her debts (2 Kgs 4)
  - c. **Moses** fed the Israelites with manna for forty years (Ex 16:35) and twice gave them water to drink from a rock (Ex 17:6)!
7. **Others commanded the forces of nature, like Jesus**
  - a. Jesus commanded the wind and sea to be calm (Mk 4:39-42).
  - b. This one is cited as evidence by some to say Jesus was working from his divine nature because no one can command nature. Is it true?
  - c. **Moses** parted the Red Sea so that an entire nation could walk through on dry ground (Ex 14)!
    - He performed 10 plagues, affecting nature: 3 days of darkness; river turned to blood; plagues of hail, frogs, gnats, flies, locusts
    - In all cases, Moses not only brought them on, but he caused them to stop as well. Jesus only stopped one storm!
  - d. **Elijah** commanded a drought with a word & later reversed it (1 Kgs 17). Later he called down fire from heaven (1 Kgs 18)
8. **IMPORTANT: we know that Jesus created everything – which is greater than any miracle mentioned in the Bible!**
  - a. **John 1:3 (BSB)** *Through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that has been made.*
  - b. But we are not speaking about Jesus in his Pre-incarnate state.

- c. We are talking about Jesus when He took on a human nature, and how He ministered during his time on earth!
9. **Joshua commanded the sun and moon to stand still**
- a. When fighting the Gibeonites, Joshua did something never done in the annals of history before or since. (Josh 10; Hab 3:11)
  - b. He commanded the sun and moon to stop!
  - c. **Joshua 10:12-13 (NIV)** *On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: "O sun, stand still over Gibeon, O moon, over the Valley of Aijalon." <sup>13</sup>So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies ... The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day.*
  - d. No wonder the writer added this commentary ...
  - e. **Joshua 10:14 (NIV)** *There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a man. WOW!!!*
10. **Isaiah moved the sun's shadow back ten steps!**
- a. When Hezekiah was near death, he pleaded for God to heal him.
  - b. Isaiah was sent to tell him that he would be healed.
  - c. When Hezekiah asked for a sign, Isaiah offered to move the sun's shadow 10 steps ahead, or 10 steps back. Hezekiah chose the latter
  - d. **2 Kings 20:11 (NIV)** *Then the prophet Isaiah called upon the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.*
11. **The miracles performed by these human beings were every bit as incredible as the miracles Jesus performed on earth.**
12. **Yet, these saints were NOT divine.**
13. **Which proves the point that Jesus did NOT require His divine nature to perform these miracles.**
14. **As we keep saying, he instead did it by the HS, just like the saints!**

#### D. Calming the Wind and the Sea

- 1. **Mark 4:41 (NIV2011)** *They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? EVEN the wind and the waves obey him!"*
- 2. Last week and today I have given **copious proofs** that Jesus set aside the prerogatives of God to live like we are supposed to, by the Holy Spirit.
- 3. **Yet, some get hung up on one phrase, "EVEN the wind and waves obey Him."** There are TWO ways you can read this.
- 4. **First: as a COMPARISON to other miracles.**
  - a. Read this way, it invites comparison with lesser miracles before it!

- b. In that case, the disciples are saying, "Not only do lesser things bend to His will, but EVEN the wind and waves (the greater forces of nature) obey and bend to His will."
  - c. Understood like this, it elevates this miracle into a separate category, requiring a higher level of power, which only God has.
  - d. They insist that only God can perform miracles of nature.
  - e. **But we already showed that others performed miracles of nature, and none of them needed or had a divine nature!**
5. **Second: as an ADDITION to other miracles**
- a. What Mark is saying is that this miracle is being ADDED to previous unnamed miracles, which they had all witnessed together.
  - b. Their astonishment wasn't JUST that Jesus had calmed the storm, but that He had performed so many different kinds of miracles, including the calming of a storm!
  - c. No human had ever performed so many and so many different kinds. **This placed Jesus in an entirely different category!**
  - d. Surely, He must be the promised one! And that terrified them!
  - e. But again, He didn't do any of them from His divine attributes, but by the Holy Spirit, just like every human!

#### E. Seven signs that Jesus is God

- 1. **First:** The virgin would give birth to Immanuel-God with us (Isa 7:14).
- 2. **Second:** at His conception & birth, angels said He was God (Lk 1:31-32)
- 3. **Third:** John the Baptist said He was God (John 5:32-35).
- 4. **Fourth:** the Father audibly affirmed that Jesus was His Son, at His public baptism (Matt 3:16-17); the transfiguration before his disciples (Matt 17:5); and just before his crucifixion (John 12:28-30).
- 5. **Fifth:** NT writers, apostles & friends said He was God (Mat 6:16; Acts 2:36; 9:5)
- 6. **Sixth:** Jesus was sinless.
  - a. Jesus Himself asked them to show Him anything they could convict Him of any sin (John 8:46).
  - b. And at His pre-crucifixion trials, they couldn't find fault with Him!
- 7. **Seventh:** Jesus said His resurrection was an authenticating sign (Jn 2:18-22; Matt 12:39-41).

#### F. **3 DANGERS** of assuming that Jesus performed some of His miracles from His divine nature

**Danger 1:** if Jesus relied on His divine attributes, then we won't look to Him as our example, because we don't have those attributes

1. Then **we won't overcome temptation** as He did; **we won't love** the way He did; **we won't do great works** as He did.
2. Yet, it was Jesus who said ...
3. **John 14:12 (BSB)** *Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever believes in Me will ALSO do the works that I am doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

**Danger 2: it prevents us from dealing with spirits of the age**

1. Increases in alcoholism, drug addiction, sexual sins, incest, child abuse, physical & sexual abuse, violence, murder, rape, occultism, greed & abortion have given demonic forces open access to our society!
2. Many people need to be delivered from the grip of these hideous spirits, and for that we need the Holy Spirit!
3. Yet the Church has been caught off guard, because she left the ancient paths of dealing with these powers of darkness long ago.
4. One of the chief marks of Jesus' ministry was driving out evil spirits or demons (Mt 4:24), and He said that He did it by the power of the HS!
5. **Matthew 12:28 (BSB)** *But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*
6. Even before the Cross, He commissioned the Twelve to do the same (Mt 10:8), as well as 72 'no-name-brands!' (Lk 10:1-17).
7. This is to be normal Christian ministry!
8. However, because the Western Church has imbibed the philosophies of the age (humanism & naturalism), she no longer sees any need for this!
9. **The African Church understands, but we don't!**
10. Instead, she attempts to tackle demonic issues with puny human strength. The results are predictable!
11. Our churches are powerless to confront these powers.
12. We must get back to the ancient path of walking & ministering in the power of the Spirit. We ignore this to our peril!

**Danger 3: it sets up believers for deception in the future**

1. **Paul** warned that a future lawless one (Antichrist) will come to deceive humanity by performing **signs and wonders by the power of Satan**
2. **2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 (ESV)** *The coming of the lawless one (Antichrist) is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,<sup>10</sup> and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup> Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false ....*
3. **Antichrist, a human leader**, will have the ability (with God's permission) to perform great signs and wonders **that will deceive people**.

4. **Jesus** warned that false christs and false prophets will arise in the last days, who will perform great signs and wonders designed to lead astray, **EVEN THE ELECT!**
5. **Matthew 24:24 (ESV)** *For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*
6. If we teach our people that the miracles Jesus performed proved that He was God, we will set them up for End Times deception.