

QUESTION: The Bible says that "Jesus was tempted in every way like as we are", but I'm curious. He is God, and unlike us He did not have a sin nature, so doesn't that mean that Jesus was incapable of saying "Yes" to those temptations or even considering them?

ANSWER:

- **Hebrews 4:15** "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched (sympathize) with the feeling of our infirmities (weaknesses), but **was in all points TEMPTED like as we are**, yet without sin."
- **Hebrews 2:18** "For in that **He Himself hath suffered being TEMPTED**, He is able to succour (help) them that are tempted."

The Bible says that Jesus is fully God, and that He is also fully man (Philippians 2:5-11, Colossians 2:8-10). Jesus even referred to Himself by the title "Son of Man" more often than the Son of God, to emphasize His humanity. **As a man, He was in the same position as Adam was before Adam sinned. Adam was created without a sin nature**, just as Jesus was born of a virgin birth without a sin nature. Adam got his "sin nature" and the sin nature came down from Adam to his descendants AFTER "The Fall", when Adam and Eve "fell" from their position of innocence into sin and disobedience to God. As for Jesus being able to consider the temptation, yes, He must have been "able" to, but the fact is He did not. **If Jesus were totally incapable of giving in to any temptation**, then it would not be a valid "temptation" and the Bible would be wrong in saying He was tempted like as we are. Jesus simply passed the test that Adam failed. This had to happen, or else He could not have died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus was the sinless Son of God, so when God the Father allowed him to be **tested by the devil, it was not** because of any sin in His life. There are times when we must go through some kind of testing or trials, but it is not necessarily because there is some sin God is purging out of our lives. Some testings are just to teach us obedience and to trust in our Lord no matter what. Even Jesus, God in the flesh, had to be "perfected" **through suffering in order to learn obedience**, because these were things He could not learn in the perfect environment of heaven (see Phil. 2:8).

- **Matthew 4:1-3** "Then Jesus was **LED up BY the Spirit** into the wilderness **to be tempted by the DEVIL**. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when **the TEMPTER came to Him**, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.'"
- **Luke 4:1 & 14** "Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was **LED BY the Spirit** into the wilderness." "Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region."
- **Hebrews 5:8-9** "Though He was a Son, yet **He LEARNED OBEDIENCE** by the things which He suffered. And **having been PERFECTED**, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."
- **Hebrews 2:10** "For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the author of their salvation **PERFECT through sufferings.**"

The Bible calls Jesus the Last Adam, because He came to undo the works of the First Adam. **Adam is a "TYPE" or representative of Christ**, in the sense of CONTRAST to what Jesus accomplished by His death and resurrection. Just as **Adam's actions** affected the whole human race in a NEGATIVE way (bringing death), Jesus' actions affect the whole human race in a POSITIVE way (to those who will believe, they bring LIFE).

- **Romans 5:14 & 17-19** "Nevertheless **death reigned from Adam to Moses**, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of **Adam, who is a TYPE of Him who was to come.**" "For if **by the one man's offense death reigned** through the one, MUCH MORE those who receive abundance of GRACE and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through **the One**, Jesus Christ. Therefore, as **through one man's offense** judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through **one Man's righteous act** the free gift came to ALL MEN, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be MADE RIGHTEOUS."
- **I Corinthians 15:21-22 & 45 & 47-49** "For since by man (Adam) came death, by Man (Jesus) also came the resurrection of the dead. For as **in Adam all die**, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." ".....The **first man Adam** became a living being. **The LAST ADAM** became a life-giving spirit." "The first man was of the earth, made of dust; **the second Man is the Lord from heaven.** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust (chemicals of the earth); and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the IMAGE of the man of dust, we shall also **bear the IMAGE of the heavenly Man.**"

Adam passed the **sin nature** to his descendants, and we all became sinners by nature. We are not "sinners" because we commit sin - **we SIN because we are sinners!** We are BORN into this world with a NATURE that is warped and twisted, and we want to do everything "**MY WAY**" not God's way, and that is the basis of all sin. We see this so clearly in little children: you don't have to teach them to lie, hit another child, steal another child's toy, or have a temper tantrum to have their way - it comes naturally! The only human being since Adam and Eve sinned **who was born WITHOUT a sinful nature was Jesus.** That is why He was born of a virgin, and had no human father, because the sin nature is passed down through our human FATHERS, through Adam.

- **Psalm 51:5** "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in SIN my mother conceived me."
- **Psalm 58:3** "The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go ASTRAY as soon as they are BORN, speaking LIES."
- **Isaiah 53:6** "All we like sheep have gone ASTRAY; we have turned, **every one to his OWN WAY**; and the Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity (sin) of us ALL."
- **Genesis 3:15** "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and **HER SEED**; He (Jesus) shall bruise you (Satan) on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel."
- **Isaiah 7:14** "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, **a VIRGIN will be with child and bear a Son**, and she will call His name Emmanuel."
- **Matthew 1:23** "Behold, **a VIRGIN** shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'"

Definition: "In SIN my mother conceived me" - This does not mean that David was born out of wedlock, or that the sex act that brought about his conception was a sinful act; it means that from the time of his very conception, **he was in a sinful state** himself, and separated from God. Adam's deliberate sin brought about DEATH; not only physical death, but SPIRITUAL DEATH. It is this **being dead spiritually** that we are all born into (see Ephesians 2:1-7), and that is why the NEW BIRTH is necessary (John 3:1-11).