

Reading Response:
The Baptized Life and Ministry of The Christ

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Th 231 The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

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In chapter four of *The Holy Spirit In the New Testament*, Swete recapped and brought into full view the fact that immediately after Jesus' baptism and anointing, Jesus was met with a challenge. The baptism which enabled the human mind of Jesus to fulfill the divinely ordered life of the world and the spiritual powers enabled him. However, Mark writes, "The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan" The word used is the verb, *ekballo*, meaning basically "to throw out" or "to drive out" possibly to portray the Spirit's new and sudden purpose in Jesus. The author highlights that during his forty days in the wilderness, Jesus overcame the evil one by the Word of God, but it is also important to note that it is also the Spirit-anointed Jesus who uses the Word of God against His powerful foe.

One of the things that stuck out to me can be found on page fifty-two where it said: "The temptation may be regarded as a necessary factor in the experience of our Lord's human life. Proclaimed by the Father's Voice, His Son the beloved the object of the divine complacency. He was called as Son to learn obedience to the things which He suffered, and without the sharpest suffering of temptation He could not have been perfected." This statement is very impactful because it reminded me of Hebrews 10:14. In Hebrews 10:14 it says, "For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." This is a powerful statement because it just stresses that suffering sharpens us as believers and that pain serves a purpose as well.

I totally agree with this chapter because it is sometimes wrongly assumed that Jesus completed His ministry in the power of His divinity. This is possible because our minds cannot fully conceive the interaction between the divine and human natures of Jesus Christ. Paul tried to offer some understanding on the matter when he said, "although Christ existed in the form of

God, he did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself..."

"Emptied here means that Christ "made himself nothing," Paul seems to be pointing out that Jesus, took on the form of a man, assuming human flesh, and willingly restricted the employment of His divine nature to live, serve and be tempted as a human. To then be a willing sacrifice for us all, and all of this was at the urging and leading of the Holy Spirit. This was one of my favorite chapters because it is confirmation that anything is possible when we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Bibliography

Swete, Henry Barclay. *The Holy Spirit in the New Testament*. Eugene, Or.: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1998.