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Dearly Beloved of God,

Greetings in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We thank you so much for your valuable prayers for our Spirit Filled Leadership seminar in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. God made this seminar a great success. Around 2100 people from 14 states of India attended this seminar. People were filled with the Presence of God and the Holy Spirit manifested Himself powerfully. People testified that they had never heard such truths and revelations before. All glory to the Lord!

Our one month School of the Holy Spirit for women starts on 1st of November. Women are applying from different parts of India. Pray for a mighty work and move of the Holy Spirit in this school. Sister, if you are hungry for God, if you want to bless the world, if you want to do a powerful ministry, it is not too late, you can still apply immediately. We want to give you a chance to fulfill your destiny. Book your ticket and avail this opportunity. Your life will never be the same. This is the testimony of all our ex-students.

We need your sincere prayers for the video shooting of the New Testament commentary. I have a strong push in my spirit to start recording immediately. I believe this will be one of the hallmarks of our ministry and a legacy for coming generations.

My heart is burning to bring out all the revelations God has given me in writing also. Pray for divine health and wisdom for us to do this work.

From November 30th to December 2nd we will have our Fasting Prayer for Nations Conference in our Poondi Campsite. This conference is

The higher the Calling the deeper the Preparation

- Prophet Ezekiah Francis

Berachah Prophetic Voice - November 2017 www.ezekiahfrancis.org open for all. Our nations need our prayer like never before. The spirit of prayer and intercession will be released from your life and change your nations. Come and be a blessing for the nations.

As this year is coming to an end, remember how God has been so faithful to us all throughout this year in His words and deeds. When Naomi heard that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread, she decided to move from Moab, the cursed land, back to Bethlehem, the blessed land (Ruth 1:6). When Israel heard that his son Joseph was alive, his spirit revived (Gen.45:26). That is the power of the good news. What news you are hearing? What words are coming out of your mouth? They can be either edifying words or destroying words. The Bible clearly states that life or death is in the power of your tongue (Pr.18:21). Check your tongue. Take a decision to speak and hear only the good news. The Gospel is the good news. Jesus has finished everything for you on the cross! This is the good news. He has already blessed you with all spiritual blessings! This is the good news. You are the carrier of that good news. Don't forget, you are called to proclaim the good news. Never be a devil's agent. You are a Holy Ghost agent. Join with Him and bless the nations.

Remember our families, counselors, leaders, and office staff in Poondi and our Chennai Headquarters in your prayers.

May the Lord use you mightily in this End Time harvest and empower you to face all your challenges victoriously.

Your brother in Christ,

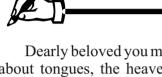
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Tongues Answered

Dr. Ezekiah Francis



Dearly beloved you may have some questions about tongues, the heavenly language, I would like to answer you by His grace. There are two kinds of questions. Some people ask critic questions just for argument's sake. That's a kind of disease. To such people, even if an angel brings the answer, the doubt won't vanish.

There is another type of inquirers. Their questions are sincere; they have an open mind and a hungry heart. Yet some of their genuine questions could keep them from receiving this blessing. Only to such people, I try to answer.

Always remember: No man can fully understand the vastness of the Scriptures. Your God is not obligated to answer all your rational questions. There are many biblical truths that couldn't be understood by the human brain until now.

Take for example the question of Trinity. Nobody has fully understood it. Somebody said, if you try to understand Trinity, you will lose your mind, but if you refuse to believe it, you will lose your soul.

Spiritual truth can be understood only with the help of the Holy Spirit. You believe many Bible truths without fully understanding them. Some truths first become your experience. After the experience, you gain the knowledge about it. I have seen it happen many times in my life, but one thing is sure: not all the Bible truths can be contained in our chicken brain.

One time, a Bible scholar was trying to understand Trinity. With all his research, he couldn't understand, and became very discouraged. One evening, he went out for a walk at the seashore. He saw a young lad trying to take the sea water with his tinv hands to fill up a small cavity he had dug. The scholar was curious to know the reason for his activity. The boy explained that he wanted to fill the entire ocean into his small cavity. The scholar told him it was impossible. The boy replied: If you can understand the God of the whole universe with your little brain, why should I not empty this ocean into my little cavity? There, the Bible scholar realized his foolishness. I read this story long before. I'm not sure if it is a true incident or not, but the lesson I learnt from this story is still fresh in my mind.

I always read the Scriptures with an open mind. If I cannot understand something there, I tremble to judge it as false or extreme teaching. I have seen other men of God having more revelation knowledge about some truths I am not aware of. No man of God knows all the truth. God has made it like this so that we will honor one another.

I have seen another wonder in the spiritual world. If you close your heart against a truth, that truth can never be revealed to us, even if you read it a thousand times. Then your very interpretations will change according to your prejudice. That is why some people adamantly insist that whatever doesn't suit their interpretation is unscriptural.

Another thing to keep in mind is that all the revelations from the Scriptures are progressive. We receive more light from the Word every day. The Church would have lost many precious truths if it had stopped at Martin Luther's revelation, but God kept adding His light on the Word to His saints like John Wesley, Charles Finney, and the like.

This is the reason for the birth of all the denominations like Lutherans, Baptists, Salvation Army, Brethren, Pentecostal, etc. After every added revelation, a new group emerged. What we know today is also not perfect. If we remain faithful, 10 years from now we will have more revelation knowledge of the Bible. Yet truths are always added, never deleted.

No matter how much knowledge and experiences we have, love is the greatest. Knowledge puffs up; love edifies. All of us are not going to have the same knowledge until we reach heaven. That is why we must be very careful not to look down upon anyone. There are lessons to learn from every man of God.

None of the men of God who are popular today reached his position easily. Therefore I have a great love and respect in my heart for even those who speak against my convictions. Sometimes, I have sadness in my heart when they speak against me publicly, but my affection for them never diminishes. Likewise, when I pass a negative comment about them even to my closest friends, I immediately lose my peace. I have to ask forgiveness and repent.

Even while writing this book, I have a reverential fear not to hurt anyone's feelings, but when I preach the truths I have seen and experienced, a burning zeal rises up in me. The apostle Paul also had such zeal. Who am I?

The majority of believers, however, have an open mind for the truth. I wrote this book for them, but it is my duty to answer the legitimate questions you might have about tongues. I was asked these questions many times in my ministry. May be many asked you similar questions. My answers would help you help others.

I purposely avoided some of the questions of theologians who vehemently oppose this subject as this book is written for hungry believers.

So far, I have used the same style of writing and gave much work to your brain and spirit. So I don't want this chapter to become a heavy subject. Therefore, I have added some humor to make it exciting.

QUESTION 1

Do all speak in tongues? Is it not a gift given to some? Isn't it wrong to teach and expect all should speak in tongues?

ANSWER

You have asked a good question. Yes, we must say a big NO to Paul's question, "do all speak in tongues?" This same Paul, however, said in many other occasions that all can speak in tongues. Watch carefully:

"I wish you **all** spoke with tongues..." (1.Co.14:5).

"Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and **all** speak with tongues, and there come in *those who are* uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?" (1.Co.14:23).

"Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues" (1.Co.14:39).

If it were true that not all can speak in tongues, how could Paul ever wish that all should speak in tongues? If it were not possible for all in the assembly to speak in tongues, why should Paul referit?

Is it right for him to command the entire church of Corinth not to forbid speaking in tongues? Ok. Let's assume Paul is a Mr. Confusion. How about the Great Commission of the Head of the Church?

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name... they will speak with new tongues" (Mk.16:17).

Jesus knew ahead of time there would be much confusion about tongues. Had He said that among the believers some will speak in new tongues, then all our confusions would have vanished. But that's not what Jesus said. He said, these signs shall follow them that believe, including all believers. What is your answer here?

See the Bible testimonies. 120 gathered in the upper room. All were filled and began to speak in tongues. If tongues were only for some, how could they all speak in tongues? Do you mean to say all the 120 had the same special gift?

Let's come to Cornelius' house. His house was filled with his friends and relatives. "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God..." (Ac.10:44-46; 11:15).

All his relatives and close friends were filled and spoke in tongues. What is your explanation for this?

Paul laid his hands on the 12 in Ephesus, and all spoke in tongues. "*And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied...*" (Ac.19:6-7). Don't you think even a child will understand every time the Holy Spirit came upon people, they all spoke in tongues? I have given you two or three witnesses.

According to the Bible, all the apostles spoke in tongues. Paul also spoke in tongues when Ananias laid hands on him (Ac.2:4; 9:17; I Co.14:18). If God is no respecter of persons, how could He give tongues to all His ministers and leave others out?

How come in the churches that believe all can speak in tongues, even today thousands are tongue-talkers? Can we judge them as cheaters?

I want to ask you some more questions to stimulate your mind. "He who speaks in a tongue... speaks to God... and edifies himself..." (1.Co.14:2,4).

- 1. Is the privilege of speaking mysteries to God only for a few elect?
- 2. Is the ability to get edified given only to a few?
- 3. How then could God judge us on Judgment Day?
- 4. In the matter of edification, how can God judge the tongue-talkers and the non-tongue-talkers equally?
- 5. If so, people who couldn't edify themselves because they were not given tongues and therefore fail in life, wouldn't they have a right to question God's justice?

Answer these questions for yourself.

If you have carefully read my entire book, you must have got all your questions answered. Now I will directly answer your questions. Every gift of the Holy Spirit is given to every believer in a measure. For example, every believer is dutybound to preach the Gospel, but can they all become evangelists? No, because the Bible says God Himself gave some evangelists (Eph.4:11). Every believer must grow into the maturity and ability to teach God's Word. Parents teach their children; a leader teaches his prayer group; a husband must teach the wife. By this time, all of you should be teachers (He.5:12), but Paul says not all can be teachers (1.Co.12:28-29; Eph.4:11). How can you explain this contradiction?

In the same way, all believers can heal the sick. Jesus said, the believers shall lay hands on the sick, and the sick shall recover (Mk.16:18). Don't you think a believing mother can claim this promise and lay her hands on her sick child? Didn't Jesus say to all believers whatever you ask in My Name shall be given you (Jn.14:14)? Did not James say to all believers that the prayer of faith can save the sick? "And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven" (Js.5:15). According to Paul, however, not all can have the gifts of healings, for he asks, "Do all have gifts of healings?" (1.Co.12:30).

The tongues of edification are for every believer. The tongue-talker should pray to interpret his tongue for the edification of the church, but the *gift* of interpretation is given only to some believers. In the New Testament we see some people operating in all the gifts; others specialize in few gifts. God gives them this gift as a permanent ministry gift.

The conclusion is: every Spirit-filled believer has God's ability in him. When you walk with God habitually, all the gifts manifest through you occasionally. A general physician can prescribe medicine for all kinds of sicknesses to some extent, but we have heart specialists, eye specialists and ENT-specialists. The same applies in our giftings.

<u>All have the ability to speak in tongues, but</u> some have the special gift of tongues.

QUESTION2

70 be answered next month...

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SHORT TERM INTENSIVE COURSE

I got confirmation about my calling in this STC. Prophet Ezekiah's first message on God's calling made me to understand how God is taking me from the pit to the palace like He did to Joseph. "The Holy Spirit is a like a Dove and like a Fire, too!" This statement encouraged me. I started interpreting tongues. After hearing Prophet Ezekiah's life testimony, I am very much encouraged. He is a living example for us to follow and a perfect person with spiritual authority. I am very much blessed by the way Rev. Benita Francis, wife of Prophet Ezekiah, treats him on the stage. Even their stage chemistry was very pure love. I am really very much blessed by this STC. Thanks to Jesus, thanks to Prophet and Prophetess and the whole Berachah Staff. **Tarun Joshi**

In this STC, the 'Christ in me' revelation taught by Prophet Ezekiah blessed me so much. All subjects in this STC gave me a solid foundation and balanced view for my Christian walk. Rev. Benita Francis' sessions on financial breakthrough, deliverance and angelic ministry gave me so many revelations. She prayed for money miracle and I gave everything as offering. The next day I checked my bank account, 7455rs were added there miraculously. The whole STC was a golden, glorious time in my life. Thanks to God and thanks to Berachah for everything. **Sandeep Prasad**

I had fear about many areas of my life, but after hearing Prophet Ezekiah's message, I got boldness because now I know Christ is in me and all over me. Now I need not fear anything. During Rev. Benita Francis' message about financial breakthrough we received 11 lakhs and 50 thousand as miracle money in our church account. We don't know from where it came. Teaching on angels also blessed me so much. **Gnana Kumar**

These ten days were wonderful! I felt the holy and mighty presence of the Holy Spirit. I saw miracles that I have never seen in my life. I got 8 coins as miracle money. I heard many teachings that I never heard before. I thank God for Prophet Ezekiah, Rev. Benita and the whole Berachah team for their deep dedication to God and His people. **Geeta**

In these ten days of STC, I got many blessings. These ten days were truly supernatural days. Now I know that I have supernatural authority. I now know how to effectively do God's ministry and how to walk in the spirit. Prophet Ezekiah didn't preach, but he prophesied. Each word brought me into new dimensions. Through Rev. Benita I came to know about the ministry of "angels". I got relief from longstanding headache and anxiety, and by the prayer of Prophet Ezekiah, I got healed from pain in the joints. I give thanks to God for everything. **Abhiman Sonekar**

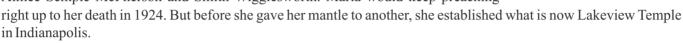
In this STC, I was completely delivered from guilt and condemnation as well as from all types of negative and vulgar thoughts. I was filled with the emotions of the Holy Spirit, and they are still flowing after STC. I feel my mind renewed. My life was totally transformed. I now know and can even feel that all old thoughts and old things are passed away. Suddenly, tears started to roll down, and after that I felt very light and was filled with joy. I found out that I have an apostolic calling. I have started to prophesy also. I have even told the names of the people, and I could prophesy exactly and 100 percent correctly. Glory to God. **Aroon**

Sewels in His Crown

"I have been in great dangers; many times not knowing when I would be shot down, either in the pulpit, or going to and from meetings... But I said I would never run, nor compromise. The Lord would always put His mighty power on me, so that He took all fear away, made me like a giant."

When the Assemblies of God came on the scene in 1914, there were few questions about where the Fellowship stood on the often divisive subject of signs and wonders. And one who helped keep that subject on a positive note with her dynamic preaching and remarkable faith was the legendary evangelist Maria B. Woodworth-Etter.

By 1914 the 70-year-old Mrs. Etter had grown hoarse from preaching scores of tent meetings coast to coast, but she was hardly ready to slow down. She was not yet ready to turn over her weather-beaten tent and railroad discount book to newcomers such as Aimee Semple McPherson and Smith Wigglesworth. Maria would keep preaching



Throughout early Pentecostal history, we see Maria Woodworth-Etter's footprints from coast to coast. Etter in revival meetings in the opera house during the fall of 1913, drawing big crowds of people who came because of the promised signs and wonders. Reports of the meetings in the Word and Witness and the Christian Evangel (now Pentecostal Evangel) gave credence to her ministry and sparked invitations to such widely scattered places during the next 10 years.

The 1915 Topeka meeting saw a dramatic healing of 10-year-old Louis Romer who, is still around to tell about it. Suffering with what was known as St. Vitus' dance (chorea), Louis shook so badly he couldn't feed himself, and his toes bent under his feet, preventing him from wearing shoes. He had little hope outside a miracle, for life expectancy of chorea victims in that day was only 13. Louis, who now lives in Lowell, Oregon, remembers that August camp meeting as if it happened only yesterday. "Sister Etter laid her hands on my head, and I felt a cooling of my nerves as a tingling warmth went through my body." Then his hands and feet straightened. "I felt so good I cried," Louis said. "All of this happened in less time than it takes to tell it." Mrs. Romer knew it was a miracle. She and Louis went shopping for a pair of shoes. Even the Topeka Capital was caught up in the healing when they referred to Louis in a headline as "Boy Cured by Miracle." He was never afflicted with the shaking again and seemed to be attracted to challenging work and hobbies that require a steady hand: marksman, sailor, electrician, and lapidary.

Many who read Maria's colorful journal-type books put them next to the Bible in importance. Fred Bosworth, for example, helped spread her fame and credibility by wishing that "all the saints in the Pentecostal movement had a copy of Sister Etter's book. It is such a help to faith! There has been no such record written since the 'Acts of the Apostles' recording such continuous victories by the Lord in our day over sin and sickness."

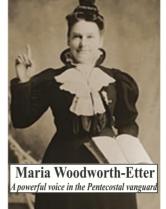
O Senior political leader Banwarilal Purohit has assumed charge as the 20th Governor of Tamil Nadu.

- Θ Himachal Pradesh assembly elections to be held on 9th November and counting of votes on 18th December, says Election Commission. Gujaral elections are to be announced shortly. While the term of the 182-member Gujarat Assembly ends on January 22, the present 68-member Himachal Pradesh Assembly expires on January 7.
- O Shortly after midnight on the 1st October, the Catalan regional government in Spain announced that 90 percent of almost 2.3 million voters had cast ballots in favor of independence. The Spanish government has vowed to stop the wealthy north-eastern region, which accounts for a fifth or the country's GDP, breaking away, and has dismissed the poll as unconstitutional and a "farce."

Θ A Guinness world record has been made in Chennai for staging the largest biology teaching session during the India International Science Festival, with the participation of a little more than a thousand school students.

 Θ In cricket, India won the five match One Day International series against Australia by winning 4 matches comfortably

 $10\,\, {\rm Berachah}\, {\rm Prophetic}\, {\rm Voice}$ - November 2017



Continued from last month...

Sickness-Chasing Soil

Your God hates sickness just as much as He hates sin. Notice God's burning heart desire to see you hail and healthy, expressed through His servant John:

ROOTE

2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers (3.Jn.2)

Your God loves you so much that your pain is His pain, your suffering is His suffering. Praise God, your loving Heavenly Father could not bear leaving you in this horrific state of sickness and decay. Just like in Moses' times, He sent His deliverer (Ex.2:24):

7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

Rev. Benita Francis

D'S WORD

10 <u>Come now, therefore, and I will send you to</u> <u>Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the</u> children of Israel, <u>out of Egypt</u>"(Ex.3:7-10)

To free His people from the physical slave masters, God called and commissioned His physical deliverer Moses. To free His people from the spiritual and physical torture of sickness and disease, God sent His spiritual Word made physical flesh to destroy sickness and death! Hallelujah!

He actually already announced this powerful miracle through His Old Testament prophet as an accomplished fact:

20 He sent His Word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions (Ps. 107:20)

In the completion of times, He sent His spiritual Word in a physical Body:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (Jn.1:1)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn.1:14)

Hallelujah!!! Sickness has no chance to remain in your body, just as sin has no right and no chance to mar your spirit! Hate sickness and disease! Sickness and disease are satan's works, and just like your Jesus was sent to destroy the works of the devil, He has sent YOU to do His works, and even greater works than He did (Lk.13:16; 1.Jn.3:8; Jn.20:21; 14:12)!

If you root and ground your life strongly in God's Sickness-Destroying Word-Soil, you will live a sickness-shunning and sickness-hunting life! You will become a destroyer of satan's works of sickness! You will set the captives free and bring them into a life of holiness, health and happiness.

How do you do that? Well, you do it just like your Lord Jesus did it: As His Body, you lay your hands (which are His hands because He lives in you!) on the sick, and they recover (Mk.16:18). As His king and priest, you send His Word of health and healing through your mouth (Rev.1:6):

38 Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her.

39 So He stood over her and <u>rebuked the fever, and</u> <u>it left her</u>. And immediately she arose and served them (Lk.4:38-39)

You can even exercise this Word-authority over long distances! See how much Jesus enjoys and commends such faith:

8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. <u>But only speak a Word, and my servant will be</u> <u>healed</u>. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!

11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and <u>as you have believed, so let it be done for you."</u> And <u>his servant was healed that same hour</u> (Mt.8:8-13)

Can you see it? Just by speaking a Word, as the centurion had believed, the healing happened! What a power! What an authority! Think about it! Just as your God spoke the entire universe into existence, you can speak and command, you can speak and create, you can speak and destroy! Dig your roots deep into that Sickness-Chasing Word Soil! Have the Sword of God's Word ready in your heart and mouth at any time (Eph.6:17; Ro.10:10)! Speak and chase sickness and disease out of your entire circle of influence.



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Sustaining Soil

There is a lifestyle, however, that is much higher than a lifestyle routine of getting sick, getting healed, getting sick again, getting healed again, and getting sick all over again. There is a lifestyle of **LIVING BY THE WORD**, a lifestyle of health, a lifestyle of victory.

See the example of your Lord Jesus. Not satan, but the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness. Whatfor? For a nice Sunday outing? No! The Bible clearly tells us that He was led there to be tempted by satan! What was the very first temptation? It was the subject that destroyed creation and made man lose salvation: Food (Ge.3:6; Heb.12:16)!

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

2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'"(Mt.4:1-4)

Since man lost eternal life and glory over wrong food choices, the first thing Jesus had to redeem back was also the victory over the desire for food.

Just as in the Garden of Eden, the old serpent satan came to tempt his eager listener with position and provision. "You will be like God if you eat of this fruit", he told Eve... "Prove that You are God's Son and create bread", he told Jesus. Alas, in the Garden of Eden, Eve fell prey to his tactic; but praise God, in this wilderness, Jesus overcame satan's wicked scheme!

Not only that, He taught us one of the most valuable lessons ever: He taught us how to defeat satan each and every time!

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'"(Mt.4:4)

Deeply rooted and grounded in God's Word, your Lord Jesus had no problem finding and using the right Sword of the spirit against His spiritual enemy satan. Without any hesitation, He hit satan with God's Word from Deuteronomy 8:3! Wow! What a victory!!!

He established clearly that no material problem can ever overpower God's spiritual provision. Bread was not necessary. God's Word was all He needed. God's Holy Spirit had led Him into the wilderness to be tempted, and He would not forfeit His spiritual reward by breaking His fast on satan's suggestion.

He didn't need to prove that He was God's Son. Especially, He didn't need to prove it to satan by doing some sign His Heavenly Father had not told Him to do. Our Lord Jesus understood very clearly that He could do NOTHING unless the Father showed it to Him, but He could accomplish ALL things God gave Him to do (Jn.5:19-21; 17:4-12; 18:9).

Your Lord Jesus didn't need to prove His God-Sonship to anyone, not even to satan. He could patiently wait till His Heavenly Father would give Him the "GO!". Why? He knew that the works God would show Him to do would be so much greater than anything satan could suggest!

How then could He bear the hunger after 40 days of fasting in the hot, dry wilderness? He could only do it by being rooted and grounded so deeply in God's Sustaining Word Soil that natural hunger didn't move Him. He literally overcame satan by the Word of His testimony and by not loving His life even onto death (Rev.12:11-12). What was His testimony? "It is WRITTEN!" was His testimony, proving that He really had made God's Word His very life (Dt.32:47).

How do I know this? Well, remember how He surprised the Bible scholars with His understanding

and answers at the tender age of twelve - an age when others play or scheme naughtiness? See here:

46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Lk.2:46-49)

There was no hesitation, no confusion, no guilt. There was only the calm, clear knowledge of His calling and mission in life. And there was the strength to stand for it, no matter who would rebuke Him for it. Kingdom matters would be the only thing that would matter to Him throughout His life.

Oh yes, although He was God's Word made flesh, your Lord Jesus rooted and grounded His life very deeply in God's Sustaining Word Soil - and you can do the same!



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