

bread.' And Jesus answered him, 'it is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone." ' and he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'I will give you all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if you worship before me, it shall all be yours.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only." ' And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here; for it is written, "He will give His angels charge concerning you to guard you." and, "On their hands they will bear you up, Lest you strike your foot against a stone." ' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'it is said, "you shall not put the Lord your God to the test." ' And when the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time."

Mark 1:13 -- "And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him."

Matthew 26:36-44 -- "Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, 'sit here while I go over there and pray.' And he took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. Then He said to them, 'My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.' and He went a little beyond them and fell on His face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt.' And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.' He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Thy will be done.' Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more."

John 18:10-11 -- "Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. Jesus therefore said to Peter, 'Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given me, shall I not drink it?' "

Hebrews 2:18 -- 'For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted."

Hebrews 4:15 -- "for we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

b. Answer to the question: Did Christ have the genuine ability to be tempted, with respect to His human nature?

Was Christ tested by God? Were His faith and devotion to God tried and proved to be genuine? Was the quality of His character put to the test?

The answer to this question is found in the gospel accounts of His earthly life and ministry, and of His passion and death. These accounts tell us that Christ was tested throughout His life. Out of the white hot crucible of God's refining furnace, He was assayed to be 100% pure gold, without impurities of any kind; and out of the winnowing shovel of God's threshing floor, He dropped as pure grain, without a bit of chaff!