



Inner Growth - Jesus 1

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:1

Journey - Luke 9:3

Enlighten - Job 33:30

Saves - Psalms 18:31, 1 Timothy 1:15

Unity - Ephesians 4:13

Sinners - Luke 5:32

The **generation** of Jesus Christ **opens** in the Gospel of Matthew with His genealogy **that traces Him the ancestral lineage through the paternal line** of Joseph. Jesus, the Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, was a legal descendant, and was formally registered as Joseph's son and legally a son of David. The Virgin Birth of Jesus accompanied Joseph, the "husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus." The visitation of the coming of the wise men to see Jesus in Matthew two occurs between forty days in Luke two, verse twenty-two, and two years old, as in Matthew two, verse sixteen. Although Matthew does not detail Jesus' years until thirty, the Gospel of Luke records in chapter two, verses forty-on through fifty-two under the section of the boy Jesus in the temple.

However, before Jesus reached the tender age of twelve, Luke two, verse forty, updates His progress, "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." As a human

child, Jesus experienced physical and spiritual development. He kept increasing in wisdom as the grace of God was upon Him. He was perfect in His human stature, developing to perfection as God desired.

The baptism of Jesus in Matthew three, verses thirteen to seventeen, does not specify His age for this event. Most scholars estimate thirty since His ministry was three and a half years. Jesus received baptism by John for the following reasons: To fulfill all righteousness, as in verse fifteen, Leviticus sixteen, verse four, and Galatians four, verses four through five, respectively. In the waters of baptism, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended to empower Him for the Kingdom ministry. The second explanation for Jesus is to identify Himself with sinners. However, the Son of God did not baptize because He needed to repent of sin personally but to redeem humanity, as in Second Corinthians five, verse twenty-one, and First Peter two, verse twenty-four. The last reason is to associate Himself with John the Baptist ministry as the forerunner of the Messiah, as in John one, verse twenty-three, verses thirty-two through thirty-three in fulfillment of what was prophesied by Isaiah forty, verse three, and Malachi three, verse one, accordingly.

Matthew three, verse sixteen, declares, "And Jesus, when baptized, went straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him." Everything Jesus did: His preaching, His healings, His suffering, His victory over sin: He did by the power of the Holy Spirit. If Jesus could do nothing apart from the working of the Holy Spirit, how much more do we need the Spirit's enablement, as in Luke four, verse one, verse fourteen, verse eighteen, John three, verse thirty-four, Acts one, verse two, and chapter ten, verse thirty-eight?

The Spirit came upon Jesus to anoint and empower Him for His kingdom ministry and work of redemption. Jesus Himself would later baptize His followers with the Holy Spirit so they might have the Spirit's enablement. An example is in Matthew three, verse seventeen, where the baptism of Jesus is a striking manifestation of the fact of that Trinity. Jesus

Christ declares to be equal with God, as in John ten, verse thirty, is baptized in the Jordan. The Holy Spirit, who is also equal to the Father, as in Acts five, verses three to four, descends on Jesus.

The Father declares that He is well pleased with His Son, Jesus. Therefore, three equally divine persons exist in unity that they are one God, as in Matthew twenty-eight, verse nineteen, John fifteen, verse twenty-six, First Corinthians twelve, verses four through thirteen, Ephesians two, verse eighteen, and First Peter one, verse two.

The temptation in the wilderness is the section of Matthew four, verses one to eleven, where **the allurement of Jesus by Satan was an attempt**

to entice Jesus from the **pathway of perfect obedience to the will of God**. In each temptation, Jesus submitted to the authority of the word of God rather than to the desires of Satan in verses four, seven, and ten, respectively. There are two things Jesus did that are significant. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit in Matthew four, verse one, and fasted forty days and forty nights in verse two. Satan is our greatest enemy. As Christians, we must be aware that we are engaged in a spiritual warfare with unseen but real powers of evil. Without the Holy Spirit and the proper use of God's Word, the Christian cannot overcome sin and temptation.

Realize that through the word, the believers have the power to resist any appeal Satan can make, as in John fifteen, verses three and seven. Memorize the scriptures in your heart and mind, and meditate on the study of the verse. Memorize and recite the memorized passage to yourself and God during temptation. Recognize and obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit to obey God's Word, as in Romans eight, verses twelve to fourteen, and Galatians five, verse eighteen. Surround all these steps with prayer, as in Ephesians six, verse eighteen.