

He Didn't Flip Power On and Off

who, being in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men.

PHILIPPIANS 2:6-7

Written by Bill Perkins

Some imagine Jesus
as toggling between divinity and humanity —
fully man until a miracle
called for divine omnipotence,
then switching it "on."

But Scripture paints a deeper picture.
"Emptied Himself"
didn't mean Jesus ceased to be God.
It meant He chose not to grasp
the rights of divinity.

He laid aside the independent exercise
of His divine attributes.
Not subtraction — restraint.

Think of it this way:
if you close your eyes,
you haven't lost the ability to see —
you've simply chosen not to use it.

During the incarnation,
Jesus "closed His eyes"
to omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence.
Not because He stopped being God,
but because He chose to walk
the road of dependence.

His miracles weren't self-generated.
They were Spirit-empowered
and Father-directed.

This model disrupts our assumptions
about power.

It invites us to imitate Christ
not in performing miracles,
but in relinquishing self-reliance.
In choosing surrender over control.

You may not know this about Jesus:
His power was never switched off —
only surrendered.

Where am I still grasping
at my own strength
when Jesus invites me
to lay it down?

Father, teach me
the strength of restraint.
Let me trust Your Spirit
to do what only You can do.
In Jesus' name. Amen.