***[Hebrews 5:7–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Heb5.7-10)***

*For more on Christ’s obedience see*:

[Mark 10:45](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Mk10.45)

[Luke 4:1–13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Lk4.1-13)

[Rom. 5:12–19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Ro5.12-19)

After telling of Christ’s appointment as high priest (vv. [5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Heb5.5-6)), the author explains that during his earthly sojourn, Jesus prayed fervently to God “with loud cries and tears” (v. [7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Heb5.7)). The eternal Son of God became a man of flesh and blood to make purification for the sins of his people ([1:3](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Heb1.3)), and he submitted to the Father and sought him in prayer. Specifically, he asked God to “save him from death” ([5:7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Heb5.7)), which refers to Jesus’ plea to his Father in the garden of Gethsemane to remove the cup of God’s wrath, thereby allowing another way to accomplish his mission ([Matt. 26:39](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Mt26.39)). Yet Jesus drank that cup to its dregs on the cross, even though the Father heard his request ([Heb. 5:7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Heb5.7)). How do we reconcile the prayer request in Gethsemane with the cross? By understanding that the Father saved the Son from death not by eliminating the cross but by raising him after his crucifixion.

The writer next teaches that although he was the eternal Son of God, Jesus experienced a new dimension of his sonship in his humanity and obedience unto death. Indeed, the incarnate Son “learned obedience through what he suffered” (v. [8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Heb5.8)). As a genuine human being who experienced normal growth and development (cf. [Luke 2:52](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Lk2.52)), he learned through experience to obey the Father in trials and suffering. He learned from the OT that he must die, and he accepted this death as God’s will. In this way he was “made perfect,” something only Hebrews says of him (also in [2:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Heb2.10); [7:28](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Heb7.28)).

The Mediator not only had to be God and man in one person, he also had to live a full and obedient human life in order to make atonement on the cross. Thus he was “made perfect” experientially, so that he could be our high priest and the “source of eternal salvation to all who obey him” as he is offered in the gospel ([5:9](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleESV.Heb5.9)).

**Theology for Life**—It is wonderful to contemplate the humility of the eternal Son, who became a human being and learned obedience through suffering to save wayward sons and daughters like us!

Crossway, *ESV Systematic Theology Study Bible: Notes* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017).  
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