

GODHEAD COURSE

Lesson 26 How It Impacted My Life

I am of the persuasion that unless a teaching has a practical impact on my life, it is almost irrelevant to me.

Why do I believe it is important to study this topic and get to the bottom of it? What has it done for me? How has this truth affected my spiritual walk with God?

Since accepting this truth, I have noticed some changes in me towards God. Here are some of them:

- a. The truth about God and His Son increased my love for Them both.

Understanding the true Sonship of Jesus amplified what God did for me and how much He loved me. As a father of three boys, I know what a father feels towards his son. The first time I read the story of Abraham offering up his son, emotion tore my heart. “How could he?” I thought to myself.

As a father, I know the love a parent has for his child. Every human parent understands. God was speaking to humans when He inspired John to write: “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” *1 John 4:9*

God chose to manifest His love towards you and me in giving up His Son. He was the One who instilled this paternal love in our hearts. Why did He do that? Do you think it has any relation to understanding the plan of salvation?

When I brought my first-born son Daniel home from the hospital, I was the proudest and happiest dad on earth. That night I knelt beside my bed to pray and the thought came into my mind to experience what God has done for me. So, I prayed, “Father, I want to experience what you went through for me. Help me to picture what happened to Jesus on the Cross as happening to my son.” I will never forget the experience. I could not endure the feeling for more than five seconds. I shook my head and said, “Sorry, Father, I cannot do it.”

God truly had a Son; He truly loved me so much that He was willing to risk losing His beloved Son in order to save me. He truly gave His only begotten Son so I can live. A real Father gave His real Son. It was not a metaphor or role play. It was reality. This is love worth pursuing; *love* worth dying for, and more importantly, *love* worth living for.

Understanding this truth revealed God’s love to me in a way beyond what words could express. It touched my heart in a practical way. I thought I loved God, but when I understood this truth and contemplated its reality, my love for Him increased beyond measure. Furthermore, His love became a reality that can never be doubted or shaken.

Is it a wonder that John wrote:

“Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” *1 John 5:5*

This is not mere theology. It is purely the outworking of God's love. Realizing how much God loved us by understanding the real Sonship of Jesus, brings forth love in our hearts back to God. The Bible says:

"We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

The deeper my understanding of God's love, the greater my love for Him. And the greater my love for Him, the greater my surrender will be.

So, understanding this truth had a practical impact on my relationship with God, my love and appreciation for Him and my commitment to follow Him.

1. It impacted my assurance of salvation and confidence in Him.

Understanding the truth about God has increased my confidence in God and His Son. Throughout my Christian life, I have spoken to many Christians from various denominations and have come across people who are resting in God and others who worry about their salvation.

I was never one to worry about my salvation, as I have trusted God. But at times I wasn't sure. Since having learned the truth about God, I understand the sacrifice of God in sending His real Son, and the beautiful truth of Jesus' indwelling in me. As a result, my love for God has quadrupled. And my confidence and rest in Him increased. Paul said:

"... I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"
2 Timothy 1:12

Paul had a lot of confidence in Christ. There was a time when I wondered how I could attain to such confidence. I no longer wonder. Now I know and I am persuaded that God is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him. How could I doubt someone who loved me so much?

Truly, *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"* (Romans 8:32).

My assurance, my confidence, my hope of salvation and eternal life find a resting place in God's love and mercy. With so much love manifested towards me, how could I lose confidence! He is my Father; He loves me as much as He loves His Son Jesus. To me this is not mere theology or fancy talk. No, it is reality because I know the love I have for my children; I would give my life for them.

Yet God the Father was willing to see His only begotten Son die on a tree. He was willing to separate Himself from His own Son during His greatest trial, and willing to hide His loving face just to see me saved; just to give me another chance to be one with Him again. This was not a role-play, a metaphor, but a real Father offering His real Son—just for me!

My confidence and assurance in God were boosted like never before. I am more than persuaded He is able to keep my life, my soul, which I have committed unto Him against that day. I can now say with Paul, *"the love of Christ constraineth me"* (2 Corinthians 5:14).

Love has a special way in impacting the heart and mind. The more I understand God's love for me, the more I trust Him. And the more I trust Him, the more I rest in Him, the more confidence I have in Him, the more assurance I have in His desire to save me.

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song.

2. It affected my prayer life.

Jesus told the scribe "*thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ... all thy mind*" (Mark 12:30). He told the woman at the well "*the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*" (John 4:23).

Before understanding this truth, I would pray to "God", but in my mind I was not sure exactly whom I was talking to. Many Christians pray to "God" without knowing who He is. You can hear it in their prayers and discussions. I was once one of them.

After understanding this truth, subconsciously my prayers became more direct. I can talk to God the Father or Jesus His Son with the understanding that I am talking to a real person. I can have a relationship with God and His Son, knowing that I am made in Their image.

A prayer partner once asked me to share my belief about God and His Son. I did so and left it with him. A few days later, I could tell from his prayer the truth made sense to him. His prayers became more direct. The way he addressed God was intentional.

I have seen the effect of this truth in my prayer and the prayers of others. That is why Jesus admonished us to love God with our heart, soul, strength, and mind or understanding (Mark 12: 30, 33).

3. It impacted my understanding of RBF (Righteousness by Faith).

As I mentioned in an earlier study, the RBF message became a reality to me after understanding the identity of the Holy Spirit. My Bible says Christ in me is my hope of glory. It says I am crucified with Christ and He lives in me. It says God gave me eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Then it says he that has the Son has life.

None of this was literally possible with my previous understanding because it took Jesus away from me and gave me a different person/being called: God the Holy Spirit. However, when I understood the Biblical teaching that the Holy Spirit is the life of Christ Himself without His physical form, it all made sense. I understood the reality of it, and realized that if Christ is in me, I am righteous and saved because I have His victorious, righteous and eternal life within me. I realized that righteousness by faith is not just a theological phrase, or an unpractical truth, it is an actual reality that took place when I received Jesus into my life.

Jesus truly is in me. I have His life and righteousness because I have Him. I believe it and receive it by faith, as the Scriptures say. What a glorious reality!

4. It impacted my understanding of Satan's greatest deception.

The Bible says "*all the world will wonder after the beast,*" and those who wonder after the beast will end up worshiping the dragon who is called the devil and Satan. (Revelation 13:3, 4)

Have you ever thought about this? Those who wonder after the beast are described as "*all the world.*" Their number is so large that they appeared to John in vision as nearly everyone on planet Earth.

I could not understand how this would be fulfilled with one-third of the world being Christians. I now understand how it is possible. The sad reality is that we are witnessing it with our own eyes. What Paul feared has already happened, and the majority of Christians are totally unaware. Satan has managed to introduce *another Jesus* and *another spirit* into Christianity (2 Corinthians 11:3, 4).

Through deception, Satan has almost managed to destroy the foundation upon which Jesus built His Church. In its infancy, Jesus said He would build it on the rock of truth that He is the Son of God (Matthew 16:16-18). Today, due to the Trinity doctrine, Christians are ostracized and disfellowshipped if they believe in the literal Sonship of Jesus. I was disfellowshipped from the denomination I belonged to because I believed and taught that Jesus is the literal Son of God.

In the last days, God's people will have the Father's name and Jesus' name written on their forehead (Revelation 14:1). The apostate church will have "mystery" written on her forehead (Revelation 17:5), which symbolizes the god they worship.

Understanding this truth has set me free from Satan's rampant deception. I pray all of God's people will be set free.

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36

How can you be truly set free, if you reject the Son in whom freedom is found?