



WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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My Spiritual Journey from the belief Jesus is God.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

My Spiritual Journey from the Belief Jesus is God.

INTRODUCTION

If a Christian is going to share a truth with another believer and that truth has the potential to shatter what the listener believes, the person sharing needs to be prepared to spend time with that person to help them through the devastation that may come with the realisation that what they have believed for many years to be true is not actually so. The following is my testimony on how it affected me mentally and emotionally when I realised that the teaching that Jesus is God is based on an incorrect understanding of a tiny handful of verses (many obscure) at the expense of sacrificing the hundreds of very clear Scriptures that teach that Jesus is the most beloved and glorified Son of God who is at this present time seated at the right hand of his heavenly Father.

From the time I was water baptized I have been a faithful Christian (faithful being the key word not perfect) for over twenty-five years and genuinely read and studied the Bible, believing I was reading it correctly. I had made various sacrifices and served God in ministry and works and had always loved and worshipped God with a heart of gratitude and thankfulness for the sacrifice of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have always been fully aware that without Christ I had no hope of salvation. I loved the Lord Jesus Christ and worshipped him as the Saviour that that surrendered his life to his enemies and laid it down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death so that I could be counted righteous by faith and not by works or by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. I had never questioned the doctrine that teaches Jesus is God I accepted it as the proven and tried teaching by the founding fathers of the Christian faith, especially when I took into account the multitudes worldwide who have embraced it through the ages without question. It never entered my mind that the concept of Jesus being God could be wrong, I had absolute confidence that what I believed was the truth.

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THE COLLAPSE

A very dear Christian friend of mine told me that she did not believe Jesus was God. I was devastated. I began to get a few Scripture together to rescue her from what I considered at that time not only a wrong belief, but a wrong belief that would rob her from her salvation in Christ. I thought it was going to be easy, since I knew Scriptures that at that time I believed taught that Jesus was the I AM, the Alpha and Omega and the creator of all things, but after a few hours I realized that it was not going to be as easy as I thought. This led to me copying one-hundred and seventy-two Scriptures from the Encyclopedia Britannica that the doctrine of the trinity that teaches Jesus is God is based on. I entered them all into my computer and then went through each one, putting them in their correct context.

I was amazed, ninety-five percent of them could be written off straightaway since they would never stand up in a court or a debate as evidence that Jesus was God, (remember at this time I am trying to prove he is God). I spent the next three months on the remaining five percent. After a period of agonizing study, day and night, I had to conclude that she was right. I not only discovered that the doctrine that teaches Jesus is God was an incorrect understanding of a handful of verses that had actually become part of the traditional church belief system because of a man named Constantine at the council of Nicea in 325AD (see Encyclopedia Britannica), but also discovered that millions of other Christians of every generation worldwide already knew this. Added to this

it became very clear that prior to council of Nicea in 325AD Christians believed Jesus was the most beloved Son of God and not God Himself since there is not one Scripture that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God the Son will be saved.

Whereas in total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim.

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that state:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

After considering these facts I thought, "surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life." New light began to shine, another good friend pointed out to me that Jesus himself said:

- This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:3).

This resulted in my entire belief in God and trust in the Bible collapsing in a heap of doubt, despair and hopelessness, because a flood of questions without answers came rushing into to my mind. I felt an overwhelming sadness at the thought of losing God, the book and the faith I had built my life on, since I could no longer trust anything I had been taught. I was in a wilderness, the bottom of the valley, and could not see my way out. This of course is not the story of everyone who comes to the same realization, but it is my story. I had always and honestly sought for a correct understanding of the Bible above all else and had always been prepared to suffer loss for it, but it never entered my mind that this type of loss would come. My question was not, "Is Jesus the Son of God?" I had always believed this as does every Christian, no matter what Christian organization, denomination or church they belong to, my question was, "If, Jesus the Son, is also God the Father, when and how did God the Father, become the Son of God? And when and how did the Son of God revert back to being God the Father Himself, especially since the Scriptures teach, that Jesus at this present time is seated at the right hand side of his heavenly Father in heaven.

FOLLOWING ARE TWELVE QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS THAT THE COLLAPSE OF MY BELIEF THAT JESUS IS GOD BROUGHT INTO TO MY MIND:

1. The Encyclopedia Britannica showed me that Emperor Constantine and a group of Bishops in an attempt to unify the church gathered together and formalized a set Creed of doctrines (called the Creed of Nicea) and stamped these doctrines as the official belief for the Christian church. The Nicene Creed states:

"I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being

of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

From this statement of faith, the teaching that Jesus is God was birthed. If Christians in Constantine's era opposed these stamped doctrines they were put in prison, tortured or burnt as heretics if they did not recant whatever else they may have believed it was by these methods that the belief Jesus is God became the traditional Christian doctrine.

- 2 I had always been aware that the Queen of Heaven and many pagan faiths flourished during the age and rule of Constantine. One of the foundational teachings of many of the existing pagan faiths, was a virgin birth so in my state of doubt another thought that flooded into my mind since my faith had crashed was the thought that since many pagan faiths were based upon a virgin birth and since Constantine not only had so much influence over establishing official church doctrine' but also desired to expand his rule and his kingdom he with his selected bishops could easily have altered a few verses of Scripture so that the Christian faith would be more in harmony with the pagan faiths who already believed in gods that were born through a virgin birth.

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When I looked at the Catholic Church and the exaltation of Mary and their dogma of the Immaculate Conception and then combined that with the thought that almost all Trinitarian churches that believe Jesus is God are originally birthed from the Catholic Church this idea seemed very real, especially since I knew men who taught that the meaning of the word virgin is not limited to a woman that had not known a man, but can also refer to a young single woman and therefore the word does not always have to apply to a woman that has not known a man sexually this of course strongly reinforced in my mind the idea that the virgin birth may not be biblical, but an invented doctrine. This kind of doubt continued increasing and brought the next thought to my mind.

- 3 Many times, the Bible says, from David's body, from his bowels, from his flesh will come a seed and I knew that many today use these verses to teach that Jesus was born by a natural human birth. I was fully aware that many of God's chosen women in the Old Testament were barren and God said he would give them a child; even though these children were miracle births involving God they still came through a human father.

During this confusion and doubt I reasoned that Mary's birth of Jesus would naturally follow the pattern laid out in the Old Testament. God performed a miracle but it still involved a human husband so in my doubt I naturally thought, "Why would God break the pattern of the Old Testament?"

- 4 I had been taught and believed that biblical genealogies are always through the man not the woman and that God always deals or works through the man and not the woman, based on this belief I wondered why God would go to Mary and not Joseph? My faith was rapidly falling apart; I was sinking into the darkness of drowning doubt.

- 5 I had spoken to people who believed Jesus was the Son of God in the same sense that Solomon was the Son of God. They based this belief on the verse in which they believe God said, "Solomon will be my only son and I will be his Father." They reasoned that just as God was a Father to Solomon so He is a Father to Jesus and teach that even though Solomon had a human father named David, God was still able to say, "I will be Solomon's Father and he will be my son." With this view in mind it is logical to reason that that Joseph could have been Jesus human father and still have God call him His Son. To add to the confusion and doubt even more I knew others who believed Jesus was the Son of God in the same sense that all believers are the sons of God.
- 6 During this time in my declining faith it seemed strange to me that it appears that Joseph was left in the dark for some months until Mary was found to be with child and could not hide it anymore. It seems only when Joseph sees that Mary is carrying a baby and thinking that she has had an affair that he naturally wanted to put her away so to prevent this happening God sends an angel to tell him what is going on. It almost appears upon surface reading that informing Joseph that his betrothed is pregnant is not only an after-thought on God's behalf, but an act of last-minute panic to save the day. My natural and doubtful thought pattern reasoned, "Even if Mary should have known first, surely God would have told both at the same time and not shocked Joseph months later when Mary was found to be pregnant?" I could not understand why God would go behind Joseph's back and tell Mary that she was to have a child and not inform Joseph?" During all this confusion my friend pointed out to me that the Angel of the Lord told Mary she is going to conceive and have a child and Mary asks, "How can this be I don't know a man?" My friend said surly this seems to be a ridiculous question for a woman that is betrothed to be married for the very purpose of having children. Surely Mary would have thought she was going to be having a child by her future husband Joseph?
- 7 Others who I knew who had faith in Christ and who I had a limited friendship with since they did not believe in the virgin birth had told me that older Bibles state, "Joseph begat Jesus?"
- 8 Because of the doubt flooding my mind at this time my thinking continued to flow as follows: God begat Israel and Paul begat believers into the faith, so in the same way God begat Jesus since the word begat does not have to apply to a literal supernatural human birth.
- 9 Added to these I not only knew that others taught that Jesus is God's only begotten son in the same way that Scripture states Israel is God's only begotten son, His firstborn, but was also fully aware that many claimed Jesus became God's only begotten son at his water-baptism and other groups taught that he became God's only begotten son by the resurrection.
- 10 In Matthews's genealogy there are fourteen generations yet in the Old Testament there are actually more than fourteen. So, I reasoned, if the writers of the Bible can't get the genealogies correct how can we have confidence that they got the virgin birth right?
- 11 It was pointed out to me that Mathew and Luke give Joseph two different fathers, Jacob and Heli; Matthew in his genealogy of Jesus states that Jacob is the father of Joseph (Matt. 1:16) while Luke in his genealogy of Jesus states that Heli is the father of Joseph (Luke 3:23). I was amazed and shocked, I wondered, how could those who have translated the Bible possibly give Joseph two different fathers. Flooded with these kinds of doubts I thought if the translators can't even get a Joseph's father's name right what else have they got wrong?

- 12 Added to all these I knew many who taught that Jesus had the same sinful nature as all humans are born with and had to conquer sin himself which they taught he did when Satan came to tempt him and at the garden of Gethsemane when he surrendered his will to the will of his heavenly Father so I wondered, "If this is true what is the need for the virgin birth?"

All of these doubts raised the following questions in my mind:

- Was Jesus born from God's creative power?
- Was he born of God at his water-baptism into the faith as all believers are?
- Was he begotten of God at his resurrection to eternal Glory?
- Was Jesus born from Joseph Mary's husband? As Solomon was of David and yet still called the son of God.
- Does God refer to Jesus as being the first begotten in relationship to his birth, his water baptism or the resurrection?

In each one of these variations the Christian is still able to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, but if the virgin birth is not the final conclusion then the Bible has been corrupted and faith in it destroyed, my mind continued to be flooded with these kinds of questions and doubts. My major problem at this time was that I could not trust Bible teachers or Christian books anymore and worse than that I could not even trust my Bible. Doubt continued to come like lightning bolts to my mind that I could not stop. My mind was flooded with deep despair, because of what I had been taught and worse still the Bible itself had collapsed.

This sent me on an intense study for months to see if my faith in God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ had all been an illusion of my mind created by my believe in them and whether I could continue to trust the Bible and continue in my Christian faith. I had fallen so far that I even began to plan a secular life, in case I could not prove to myself and for myself that my faith had not just been a figment of my own imagination. I knew children could create a very real imaginary friend in their own mind by having faith or believing that an invisible friend exists and that the human mind can create very real entities in the imagination by the power of belief in that entity and that if this belief is strong enough it will cause the nervous system, the emotions and the feelings to react to those images or entities as though they are real. Obviously, I survived the doubts and found answers to all the confusing questions that came to my mind that potentially had the power to rob me of my faith forever.

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God the Son will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim:

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life.

Jesus himself said:

- This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:3).

It is enormously difficult for this author to comprehend how the doctrine, "Jesus is God" ever got such a strong foothold in the global body of Christ when there is so much evidence that very clearly shows that this is simply not so.

A PERSONAL NOTE

Those who have embraced the belief that Jesus is God and those who believe Jesus is the Son of God, but not God Himself not only separate themselves, but generally treat each other as enemies and often harbour a hostile spirit toward one another. Having spent much of my Christian life in both groups and seeing the good heart of the faithful and those passionately devoted to God and the Lord Jesus Christ within these churches this is deeply sad because for the following reasons:

The faithful and devoted of both groups:

- Are passionate and devoted to God and to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Believe Jesus was born of the virgin birth.
- Love Christ with such devotion they would lay their lives down for him if called to do so.
- Believe Jesus is the only way to salvation and eternal life.
- Desire to honour God and bring a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and his heavenly Father.
- Believe Jesus was the man who died on the cross for their sin and who rose again to be exalted to the right hand side of the Father.
- Have great joy in the promise that Jesus will return to resurrected to eternal life and everlasting glory the faithful who to belong to him.

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Having spent half my Christian life in churches believing Jesus, is God and the second half of my Christian life believing Jesus is not God Himself, but the most beloved Son of God, it is for me a shame that both sides feel threatened by each other and separate and even worse often treat each other as enemies of Christ.

My heartfelt devotion, love, zeal and passion for Christ and his heavenly Father has not changed from the day I was water baptized into Christ forty-five ago simply because I have come to a much clearer intellectual understanding of God and His most beloved Son.

While I believed that Jesus was God I still saw in my mind's eye (and still do) and fully believed that:

- Before men I was basically a good person, but before the most Holy God I was left lacking and fell far short of His Holiness both outwardly and inwardly (and still do).

- God was the sovereign, immortal, invisible, holy God Almighty, the creator of all things and source of all life (mortal and eternal).
- Jesus was the most beloved Son of God who came into the world through the virgin birth of Mary.
- Jesus was the Son of God and sent by God.
- Jesus was a man who was water baptized by John the Baptist.
- Jesus laid his life down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- Jesus died and three days later rose and after spending some time with the apostles ascended to the right hand side of God.
- Jesus is at this time is seated at the right hand side of his heavenly Father.
- God the Almighty has exalted Jesus above all authorities, powers and rulers.
- It is only through faith in Jesus and God's grace that anyone can be reconciled to God and be granted eternal life.
- Jesus will return and gather those who belong to his family to himself in everlasting glory.

Though I had a clouded and veiled view of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ I still exalted and worshipped Christ as the most beloved Son of God (howbeit as God also in certain songs and prayers). Perhaps this testimony raises the question in the mind of some, "Does this lack of clarity in understanding mean that I was not saved during those earlier years that I lived in faithfulness to Christ?" I personally believe I was, since my heartfelt love, passion and devotion has not changed in any way toward my heavenly Father and my glorious redeemer the Lord Jesus Christ, just because the knowledge I have gained over the many years of walking with Christ has given me a much clear understanding of the Father and the Son.

I am personally confident if I wasn't saved in those early years following my water baptism and my spiritual journey in Christ from that day onward then I am not saved today. Why some might wonder? Simply this, though my knowledge has changed in many ways my faith in Christ and in God's grace has not. But perhaps this is a question for God to answer.

The following are two things that I do know for certain:

1. The God we worship sees the true devotion, intent and motive of the heart.
2. The heart of God is the heart of a father.

As an earthly father I do not reject those who love my son and treat him with decency and respect, even though they may not fully understand his birth or heritage especially when these friends are willing to lay down their own lives down to protect the good name and character of my son. As a father I judge my son's friends by the love and devotion they have toward him and by how they treat him and not by their perfect intellectual head knowledge and perfect mental understanding of who he is.

Added to this I am not jealous if my friends show the same affection toward my son as they do toward me in fact when they do it just endears me to them even more. I suspect God feels the same way. Though we can understand Jesus with some clarity since he walked on earth amongst humanity we cannot comprehend God his heavenly Father in the same way since no one has seen God and for this reason we should always allow

a certain amount of mystery to remain concerning the Almighty God the Creator and source of all life. Added to this God is not bound by our intellectual knowledge and dogma. The God we all worship as Christians not only perceives the love, devotion and true motives of the heart, but is a God of grace and mercy and I suspect will judge each one of us against the law of love and according to our faithfulness and devotion toward His most beloved Son and according to how we treat others, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ.

For the answers to all the above questions, see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity).
 - In Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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