

GBC Connection

Recently I was asked to provide a brief testimony of my conversion to Christ. Mine is not a “spectacular” story but I think we need to lose the notion that my God-story or anyone else’s is too “boring” to share. When Jesus Christ rescues a lost soul it is an awesome event – always! So in this vein, I thought that my testimony may be a blessing to you. There are many nuances to my story which I hope to share in time. There is also an immeasurably important turning point I experienced which I hope to share next month, but for now may you be blessed and God glorified in this short account of what He has done in me.

I have not always been a Christian – but I have been for much of my life. When I was a small child it was explained to me that I needed to make my life right with God, and I could only do that through Jesus Christ. So, at a very young age it did indeed occur to me that I needed Jesus and received Him into my life to save me and make me His own.

What has transpired, though, has been an ongoing series of questions and affirmations throughout my childhood, teen years, and early adulthood. As I aged I found myself questioning what I believed. It is one thing, I supposed, to have believed something as a child, but not all things I embraced in those early years turned out to be true. For example, I believed that there was a button in my parent’s car that if pushed would cause it to self-destruct – if you can believe that I thought this! I came to my senses years later when I began to ask: “would a car company put such a device in a vehicle they made?” I also believed in Santa Claus too up until the first or second grade, and was quite disappointed in myself for having believed such a tale! My faith in Jesus was something I also pondered about throughout my childhood and into my teen years wondering if it was true as well, or if I had just bought into a lie.

I can tell you that I have found the Bible to be trustworthy, and consistently right about my sinfulness – my selfishness, lust, priorities, attitude, tongue, and more. Again and again when I read the Bible it tells me the truth about me and is overwhelmingly revealing to me about how much I need God’s intervention. I am finding the Person of Christ both historically authentic and compellingly real, and am experiencing a growing desire to be more like Him in my living.

So despite coming to know Jesus at a young age, to be honest I have been getting to know Him my whole life. It occurs to me that the relationship with Him starts and is sealed in a moment – but the knowing of Him is indeed a lifetime.

Through all of this I think perhaps the biggest change I have noticed in my life is a continual refining of what I want and pursue in life and affirmation of what I already believe. My experience has been that God works in me changing the things that I want – from being material and temporal, to being things that are eternal. This change has been most gradual – but change it has been. There is a sentence in the Bible that means a lot to me and it goes like this: “. . .it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Phil. 2:13 ESV) There are many things that God calls me to as a Christian, and there are not any of those things that I find I can do myself. I need God for *everything*.

But even before it comes to doing what He wants me to do, there is a greater problem I have: *wanting* to do what He calls me to do. Mine is a battle of the will – and God is winning. I think that one of the greatest things He has done for me is that He is changing the things that I want into alignment with what He wants for me. That’s huge because my starting point is *not* seeking and enjoying God, but rebelling against Him and being fascinated by other things – that’s my default.

Making the Connection and Taking Action

May I share how something like this can happen to you? It starts with agreeing with God that we have done wrong against Him. When I am there it is then that I am in position to receive God’s help. God has made a way for us to have a genuine relationship with Him, through His Son Jesus Christ even though our starting place may be a *not wanting* Him. When we put our trust in Him, believing Him to be the one who paid for my sin and count on Him alone to make my heart right with God, then begins an everlasting friendship between you and the One who made you. What do you think about this? Is it time for you to turn to Jesus and embrace Him as your Savior and Lord, and be made right with God?

- Ross Kearney

*The purpose of GBC (Graphite Bible Chapel) Connection is to encourage further reflection and study to facilitate a deeper connection between our Sunday teaching and your daily lives – the triumphs, tragedies, and toil that each of us face every month.
Available online at www.graphitebiblechapel.com*