

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 428 – February 17, 2013**

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

**Good Morning!**

**Let's Make a Mental Shift \**

/GAL 2:20

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in(dwelling) me; and the (Zoe) life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me (unconditionally) and gave Himself up (as a sin substitute) for me."*\

We come to bible study to know where to place our faith.

In preparation for your study of the Word of God, it's time to evaluate yourselves by inspecting your mindset. You can ask yourself a very simple question, "What thought pattern am I allowing to influence me right now?"

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Is your soul tuned to the influence of KCOS, the world system of thought, or is it tuned to the influence of WGod, the divine system of thought? Bible study is a time to tune your soul to the reception of biblical thought, which the bible refers to as RENEWING, as you let God the Holy Spirit fill up your deficiencies with the truth of the mind of Christ, the Word of God.

Through RENEWING, God transforms us...

Second Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verse 18 says...

/2CO 3:18

*But we (believers in Christ) all, with unveiled face (given by God), beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from (the ultimate source of) glory to (reflected) glory, just as from the (agency of the) Lord, (God) the (Holy) Spirit.\*

Now is the time to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ renew your mind, preparing you "in humility (to) receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls."

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**/MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*  
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

In the Beginning\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song, as you fix the eyes of your soul on the author and perfecter of your faith, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The opening song is...IN THE BEGINNING.

**/OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...(0:30)

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

Help us to place our complete confidence in You and your Word...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

Pastor Rory Clark\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. You're listening to lesson four hundred and twenty-eight of the CREATOR versus CREATURE Conflict series. Welcome to a ministry designed for serious students of the Word of God.

**/TODAY'S STUDY**

**The CREATOR'S Will is That You Have Faith\**

PLEASE STAND

**/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

In gratitude for all who defend our freedom, especially in gratitude for military victory from our front line military personnel and in honor of law

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enforcement officers all over the world, especially those in our own congregation, we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.\

**/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

I pledge allegiance to the flag  
Of the United States of America  
And to the Republic for which it stands  
One nation under God  
Indivisible  
With liberty and justice for all.\

**/ANNOUNCEMENTS\**

**/Mark Your Calendars!**

The next Lord's Supper Celebration is March 3, 2013\

**/Mark Your Calendars!**

Barah Ministries Radio Program

KXXT, 1010 AM, Phoenix

Fridays 4:30PM-5:00PM

Rebroadcast

[myfamilyvaluesradio.net](http://myfamilyvaluesradio.net)

**CLICK TO LISTEN**

“G”

“God Cares for You”\

This week's lesson in our evangelistic radio ministry is...**God Makes Himself Visible**. Be sure to give it a listen. The lessons and the notes are on our website.

**/Mark Your Calendars!**

Temporary Change of Location

March 3

Hilton Chandler

2929 West Frye Road

Chandler, AZ 85224

(480) 899-7400\

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/Mark Your Calendars!

HOMECOMING  
for the  
Non-Resident Congregation  
June 15-16\

/Mark Your Calendars!

Coeur D'Alene, Idaho  
BIBLE CONFERENCE  
*Tentative Date*  
August 9\

/Mark Your Calendars!

No Bible Study  
March 10  
April 21  
June 30  
December 8  
December 29\

Next, let's take the offering. Let's welcome up Deacon Caleb Alburn.

**/THE OFFERING**  
Deacon Caleb Alburn\

/Barah Ministries Financial Policy

No price appears on any material from Barah Ministries so that anyone who desires biblical teaching may have it free of charge.\

/OFFERING VERSE

JER 29:11

*For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.\*

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/Remember to give with the motivation suggested in Scripture

2CO 9:7

*Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (grace oriented) giver.\*

**/OFFERING SONG**

*Come Now is the Time to Worship\*

**/TODAY'S STUDY**

**The CREATOR'S Will is That You Have Faith\**

The next question in our series of questions designed to illuminate a biblical passage is this one...

**/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE**

**What is the passage teaching us about God and His Plan?\**

I did a biblical search of the New Testament recently looking for the occurrences of four words...faith...believe...hope...and love. In the New American Standard translation of the bible, faith occurs 246 times (250 total in the entire bible); believe occurs 126 times (152 total in the entire bible); hope appears 75 times (140 total in the entire bible); love appears 215 times (348 total in the entire bible). I did the search because these were the words on my mind this week...faith...believe...hope...love.

Faith was on my mind because I witnessed it in Mexico this week. Believe was on my mind because it is so simple. Hope was on my mind because I've been feeling a lot of it lately. Love was on my mind, because I am in love. So I wanted to close out the lessons this week by sharing with you some lessons learned in our journey of rejecting the legitimacy of the doctrine of rebound that we have undertaken so far this year. In light of the question, "What is the passage of First John Chapter 1 teaching us about God and His Plan?" it seemed like a legitimate undertaking. Mark, Chapter 4, beginning at Verse 30 ...turn there please...it says...

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/MAR 4:30

*And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said, “How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it?”\*

/MAR 4:31

*“It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil...”\*

/MAR 4:32

*“...yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR can NEST UNDER ITS SHADE.”\*

God is making a promise to you that no matter how insignificant your life seems now, it will grow up and become larger than you can imagine. Matthew, Chapter 17, Verse 20...

/MAT 17:20

*And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.”\*

This lesson is dedicated to a friend of mine, Domingo Valdez, who is a bellman at a time share I own in Los Cabos, Mexico, the place where I go when I don't want to be gotten to...the place I go when I want to gain perspective through peace and quiet. One of the first people I think about when I go to Los Cabos is Domingo. Whether I am staying at the resort at which he works, or at another resort, I always want to see him right away.

Domingo didn't graduate from high school. He *can* think in English, but not as well as he thinks in Spanish, so at times there is a bit of a pause as he is translating what I am saying into Spanish in his mind so he can understand it. He always has a book with him, and in his idle times he reads...mostly about the Lord. He is a Christian, rare for a Mexican in a predominantly Roman Catholic culture. He makes five dollars a day plus tips. I may be underestimating it, but I think he makes about \$100 a week. When he takes my bags to my room, he always waves off the tip, although I won't let him. His greeting is always the same... “Hello Pastor...” then a quick hug that

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displays the warmth of Mexico. When talking to him, I always lose track of time. When talking to him, I always feel at home.

He is very open about his life. He is married. He has a son. He is very open about his faults. He wants to be a Pastor, and well he should. He has evangelized to all of his co-workers, and he knows the spiritual status of every one of them. I love listening to his insights about life and about his family and about his marriage and about the people he works with.

This week, I was not staying at his resort so I went out of my way to go see him. He was telling me about a bible study he attends during the week. Recently, when it was his turn to talk in the bible study, he said, “I can’t teach you anything because I don’t know much. But the Holy Spirit can teach you everything. So I’m going to share with you some bible verses, and I’m going to tell you what I think they mean, and then we can talk about how they apply to our lives.”

Faith. Domingo (whose name means Sunday in Spanish) has faith. His faith is as small as a mustard seed, but it is constantly teaching big lessons to this Pastor. You see, Domingo doesn’t know a thing about post salvation epistemological rehabilitation, or scar tissue of the soul, or reverse process reversionism, or triple compound discipline, or rebound, or losing or gaining the filling of the Spirit. For Domingo, biblical study is not an intellectual pursuit. It is a journey of faith. It is love for a Person, the Lord. What I hear Domingo talking about is Jesus, the Spirit, the Lord, grace, the gospel, and faith. Domingo embodies the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ, and I love hearing his viewpoint.

His faith is as small as a mustard seed, but it moves mountains in my soul. Perhaps you can credit one of my conversations with Domingo with the renewing that I have felt in my soul this year. Maybe that is why this year has gotten off to such a great start, rooting out the legalism and the legalistic doctrines that can choke a congregation and faith to death.

If I can talk him into it, I want to bring Domingo up to teach a lesson to you later this year. If he doesn’t want to teach a lesson, maybe I’ll just bring him up to meet you. He’s a great person, a man of God, and a physical manifestation of faith.

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/BREAK

*When I Think About Home*

Welcome back!

I'm in love...

Being in love usually isn't good news. But this time it is. On Valentine's Day, even the hardest heart turns its fancy to love...and my hard heart was no exception. I started to reflect on all of the loves in my life throughout the years, and some common things surfaced.

From my side, when I decide to love, I'm all in. Heaven help the person that I love. I drown them with all of myself. I'm sure it's a bit overwhelming. On the other side is usually a person who has been abused in some way, and I enter their lives to restore their hope. This was the common theme in every case but one, and the one exception was probably the woman I should have married...but I didn't. My friends used to tell me that if I went in a room of forty women, and thirty-nine of them were normal, I'd leave with the one that wasn't normal. Unfortunately that is a true story.

Love, for me, has always been about giving, not taking. It's a painful road. No matter how hard I've tried, I haven't been able to change that. Inevitably, in every human relationship, there comes a time when the other person no longer values your voice. I call it the betrayal phase of a relationship. The other person no longer believes in you. They start listening to others. They reject you.

If you reflect on your own relationships, I bet you'll see the betrayal phase. If you are parents and you have teens, you definitely know what I mean. The time comes when they value the words of their peer group more than they value your words. In the past, the betrayal phase was always a devastating time for me. No more. I didn't mind so much the feeling of rejection...I certainly didn't mind letting go...I just hate to see the result of unbelief. The object of my love goes out to be hurt...intentionally puts self in harm's way...the result is predictable...they get devastated...and then all of a sudden your words of warning ring loudly in their ears. It's so predictable it's pathetic. But it's life. It's not a fate you would wish on your worst enemy. But it's life. I've become good at letting go.

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God allows these relationships to teach us. Through relationships we learn the most about the CREATOR versus CREATURE Conflict. People will be attracted to us. People will betray us. And then we'll reconcile or divorce. There have been more divorces than reconciliations in my life, I am afraid.

Yet on Valentine's Day, after nearly six decades on the earth, I realized that I have been in love for a really long time, and I wasn't doing anything about it. I was too busy giving my affections to others instead of to my love. You, on the outside, would have never noticed my long betrayal, but my love did. It must have really hurt. But now I'm back to stay.

You see my true love, the one I am in love with, is the Lord Jesus Christ. That may not be a revelation to you, but it is a definite revelation to me, not that I love the Lord...but how deeply I love Him.

I haven't been giving the Lord my all. I have split my affections. The good news is that misdirecting my affections to people and self and things has always had the same result...failure. I betrayed my true love, yet not once has my true love every betrayed me. Even though He should have, and if His love for me were conditional, He would have, yet He didn't leave my side once.

I misdirected my "all of me" affections to everyone and everything but Him. But one gnawing feeling has plagued me through the years...I was looking for a love from humans that they could never give me, a love that I already had in the Lord. And only through all of the failures at those human loves have I realized that they could never give me what He could. His love fills up my deficiencies, yet I shunned it by putting it on the back burner while I looked for love in all the wrong places.

Please don't get me wrong. I am not one of those people who, having failed at every human relationship, has turned into the "I don't need humans, I only need God," people. I hate them, actually. That's usually a defensive reaction to hurt. What I realize is that without giving my all to God, I could never really value the inadequate love of a human being, not even my own inadequate love for them. I am not enough for others. They are not enough for me. Only when the love of God is being honored and is flowing between two souls can true soul love be experienced.

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I have experienced this love occasionally with people, and a lot with my younger son...we have always said that our relationship with the Lord is what has made our relationship valuable and viable. But I don't think we really knew the depth of what we were saying.

My faith in God is small...about the size of a mustard seed. It gives me hope, a hope that has kept me alive during the darkest of times. I am in love with Him.

The only requirement He has given me in this life is to believe...to completely agree with Him in all matters. *Homologeo*. Nothing I do is going to have the depth of feeling and the satisfaction without Him. John, Chapter 15, Verse 5 says...

/JOH 15:5

*"I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."*\

So here's the question of this lesson...

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

What is the passage (First John Chapter 1) teaching us about God and His Plan?\

Is your faith concerning being forgiven for sin based on **your** confession, or on the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace?

Is your hope of rewards in heaven based on changing diapers while filled with the Spirit, or is it based on the faith you have in faithfulness of the Lord?

Is your love for an intellectualized version of the Christian Way of Life with its complex terminology and language designed to make you feel smarter than everyone else, or is your love for the Lord's version of Christianity where He is the only One who can fill up the deficiencies in you?

Do you believe in yourself more than you believe what God can do for you?

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I think the lessons from this passage in First John and from this study of the doctrine of rebound are profound.

The Christian Way of Life is a lot simpler than we think it is...it took the simplicity of Domingo to teach me that.

The Christian Way of Life gives us hope, and it took six decades of searching fruitlessly for something else to give me confidence, to determine that my only confidence comes from Him.

The Christian Way of Life is a lifestyle of unconditional love. The verse doesn't say faith, hope and love abide these three, but the greatest of these is justice is our point of contact with God. Someone came here as a visitor once and asked his son after the lesson, "Where is the love?" I didn't understand the question at the time, but now I do. We didn't have love, we had legalism.

We have merely to believe that there is no other way but the way the Lord Jesus Christ suggests...John, Chapter 14, Verses 5 and 6 say...

/JOH 14:5

*Thomas said to Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"\*

/JOH 14:6

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through (believing in) Me." \*

When you leave today, look around you on the outside. You're going to see a lot of people looking for the way. Show them the way. That's what we learn from this study. The way is the Lord Jesus Christ. The way is not us. Trust Him with your faith. Believe in Him for salvation. Place your hope in Him for confidence. Love Him forever with all of yourself. And peace will be with you.

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**/CLOSING SONG**  
Faith, Hope and Love\