

Restoration (Conditions)

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Outline: I will talk about conditions, what they are and why they matter, at the end of the 2nd session, we will make conditions for ourselves.

Reading:

As we marvel at the scientific laws concealed in the natural world, we can deduce that God, its Creator, truly is the very origin of science. If human history is God's providence to restore the world wherein His purpose of creation is fulfilled, it must be that God, the Master of all laws, has led the long providence of restoration according to an orderly plan. It is our most urgent task to comprehend how the sinful history of humanity began, what formulas and laws have governed the course of the providence, how history will be consummated and, finally, into what kind of world humanity will enter ... We will recognize in every historical event traces of the Heart of God as He has struggled to save fallen human beings.

"The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled." Genesis 6:5

The sinful world brings humankind sorrow and causes God to grieve. Would God abandon this world in its present misery? God intended to create a world of goodness and experience from it the utmost joy; yet due to the human Fall, the world came to be filled with sin and sorrow. If this sinful world were to continue forever in its present state, then God would be an impotent and ineffectual God who failed in His creation. Therefore, God will save this sinful world, by all means.

To what extent should God save this world? He should save it completely. First, God must expel the evil power of Satan from this sinful world, thereby bringing it back to its original state prior to the Fall of the human ancestors. Salvation must then continue until the good purpose of creation is fulfilled and God's direct dominion is established. To save a sick person is to restore him to the condition of health he had before the illness. To save a drowning person is to restore him to the state he was in before he fell in the water. Likewise, to save a person suffering under the yoke of sin means to restore him to his original, sinless state. In other words, God's work of salvation is the providence of restoration.

Pastor Adonia shared about in her recent message that God can't be satisfied with symbolic or spiritual salvation of humanity. What about all the people who have died in the past? What about all the people who don't accept Jesus, even if they lived a good life and did many good things? Is there no grace for those people? Christianity says those people go to hell, along with the Mormons and for some, Catholics; anyone who doesn't believe a certain way, and they are waiting for the rapture. I can't accept a God like that. God must have a plan to restore all his children and this whole world back to the originally plan.

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So we need to understand what God's plan was, what went wrong, and how God has been working to fix it. Not only that, we have to understand it well enough that we can apply it to our own lives. This is what we call the Providence of Restoration.

I can't cover everything in today's presentation, but hopefully you have learned or are learning many of these points from the Divine Principle in your own studies. First of all, in order to understand restoration, we need to understand what we inherited from the Fall.

From the Fall: 4 fallen natures (Go through the process of the Fall with Lucifer)

1. Not Seeing from God's Point of View (jealousy, blame, judgment, being condescending, comparing, arrogance)
2. Leaving One's Proper Position (being irresponsible, infidelity, family breakdown, irresponsible parenting, polluting the environment)
3. Reversing Dominion (dominating or controlling parents, spouse, children, using others, slavery,

trafficking)

4. Multiplying Evil (gossip, bringing down others, hurting people, abuse)

Means we are in a state of conflict. On the one hand, we are descendants of the Fall. On the other hand, we are God's children and nothing can take that away from us.

We call this the MIDWAY POSITION

For I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! -Romans 7:22

Before discussing the Principle of Restoration through Indemnity, we must first understand in what position, due to the Fall, human beings came to stand in relation to both God and Satan. If the first human ancestors had not fallen but had reached perfection and become one in heart with God, then they would have lived relating only with God. However, due to their Fall, they joined in a kinship of blood with Satan, which compelled them to deal with him as well. Immediately after the Fall, when Adam and Eve had the original sin but had not yet committed any subsequent good or evil deeds, they found themselves in the midway position—a position between God and Satan where they were relating with both. As a consequence, all their descendants are also in the midway position. Take, for example, a person in the fallen world who does not believe in Jesus but leads a conscientious life. As long as he leads a virtuous life, Satan cannot drag him into hell; yet God cannot bring him to Paradise either as long as he does not believe in Jesus. He remains in the midway position. His spirit ends up abiding in an intermediate region of the spirit world which is neither Paradise nor hell.

How does God separate Satan from fallen people who stand in the midway position? Satan relates with them on the basis of his connection with them through lineage. Therefore, until people make a condition through which God can claim them as His own, there is no way God can restore them to the heavenly side. On the other hand, Satan acknowledges that God is the Creator of human beings. Unless Satan finds some condition through which he can attack a fallen person, he also cannot arbitrarily claim him for his side. Therefore, a fallen person will go to God's side if he makes good conditions and to Satan's side if he makes evil conditions.

For example, when Adam's family was in the midway position, God instructed the children, Cain and Abel, to offer sacrifices that they might come into a position where God could work His providence through them. Yet because Cain killed Abel, the condition was made which allowed Satan to claim them instead. God sent Jesus to fallen people that they might stand on God's side through the condition of believing in him. Unfortunately, when he came, many rejected him and remained on Satan's side. This is the reason Jesus is both the Savior and the Lord of judgment.

What, then, is the meaning of restoration through indemnity? When someone has lost his original position or state, he must make some condition to be restored to it. The making of such conditions of restitution is called indemnity. For example, to recover lost reputation, position or health, one must make the necessary effort or pay the due price. Suppose two people who once loved each other come to be on bad terms; they must make some condition of reconciliation before the love they previously enjoyed can be revived. In like manner, it is necessary for human beings who have fallen from God's grace into corruption to fulfill some condition before they can be restored to their true standing. We call this process of restoring the original position and state through making conditions restoration through indemnity, and we call the condition made a condition of indemnity. God's work to restore people to their true, unfallen state by having them fulfill indemnity conditions is called the providence of restoration through indemnity.

3 types of indemnity.

Equal (eye for an eye, equal cost)

Lesser (grace, compassion, repentance, forgiveness, Jesus' Salvation)

Greater (based on previous mistakes or failures, Abraham and Isaac)

Foundation of Faith/Substance (Remove fallen nature)

Bible:

Adam and Eve

Foundation of Faith: Obey the commandment

Foundation of Substance: Fulfill the 3 Great Blessings

Cain and Abel

Foundation of Faith: Burnt Offering

Foundation of Substance: Cain had to make the offering through Cain and overcome his jealousy/anger

Noah

Foundation of Faith: Build the Ark

Foundation of Substance: Sons unite with their father

Abraham

Foundation of Faith: Move Family and Make the offering

Foundation of Faith: Offer Son, Son's Faith

Jacob and Esau

Foundation of Substance: Brothers unite, win the heart of Esau

From there came the 3 Abrahamic faiths.

John the Baptist

Foundation of Faith: Life of faithfulness and ascetic lifestyle

Foundation of Substance: Unite with Jesus

Jesus

Foundation of Faith: "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52

Came on the foundation of the past 4,000 years, but after that original foundation fell apart, he had to start anew, 40 days in the wilderness, tempted by Satan. After that he started proclaiming that he was the Messiah the people had been waiting for. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice and gave his life so that we could receive grace by making the "condition" of accepting Jesus. Except that wasn't God's end goal.

Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (John 5:19) By this he meant that he was following the model course which God had revealed to him through Moses. Moses thus prefigured Jesus.

Based on Jesus' foundation, the new testament has been guided by him spiritually. God used the conditions of martyrs and good people to advance his providence. This wasn't the end though, as St. Paul shared, "we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons."

We are very lucky. We stand on the merit of the age. Central figures of the past did not understand what they were doing. We have the benefit of history and knowledge.

The Bible and the Divine Principle shows us how God has been working through a central path to restore humanity. It is not just for us to know and understand and observe, but to participate in. It shows us the process for our own lives and lineages. The goal is real restoration of ourselves and our families, society, and world.

Types of Conditions

Intentional and Specific Conditions vs. Daily conditions, actions and attitudes

Share story about many young people at BTA and their experiences with coming to the program. These extreme prayers, tearful repentance, these are conditions, deciding moments where we can

go one way or another. God listens in those moments. Where we take a leap of faith in a moment of clarity or reckoning, not sure how it is going to end up. We pray when we don't know if God is real, we give when we don't have it to give. The point is: God needs our conditions, or the conditions of others on our behalf, such as merit. God can't just do whatever he likes whenever he wants to, and the same with our lives. There are laws of nature, and there are spiritual laws as well.

Conditions can be inherited or given by someone

You have made conditions in your life, even if you didn't realize you were doing it. Vertical conditions are between myself and God and horizontal conditions are between myself and others. Good vertical conditions can be reading God's word, prayer, repentance to God, tithing, coming to church. Good horizontal conditions can be service to others, generosity, repentance to others, forgiveness, healing hurts and damaged relationships. Could be an ancestor who lived sacrificially or gave a lot.

Intentional and more specific conditions are useful when confronting specific issues, challenges in our lives or looking for special guidance. We know from the Divine Principle's understanding of the Bible now how these work.

Vertical (Foundation of Faith) and Horizontal (Foundation of Substance)

Central Figure

Purpose

Time Period (3, 4, 7, 10, 21, 40)

Offering (shows sincerity, give up something meaningful)

Share my testimony of some conditions I've done.

Think about what kind of conditions you or someone else in your life may have done to enable you to be where you are today? Consider what areas in your life are challenging you right now, where you need God's guidance or direction? Could be a struggle to understand something, or a struggle with another person.

Day 2

Recap previous session and spend time sharing and hearing about conditions and experiences.

Talk about examples of conditions

Final Part: Work together to make conditions.