



God of Restoration (7/04/2020) River Rock Church

What is restoration? It is the act of replacing (Renewal, revival, re-establishment, Recovery) to a former state. God does not restore like the insurance companies that restore only at market value after you pay a huge deductible. God's restoration is beyond what the dictionary defines. God always does far beyond what we ask or think according to the power that works in us (Ephesians 3:20).

Everyone alive has had some loss and has not seen complete restoration. I'm here to fan the flame that dying hope or hopelessness and arm you with the Word so you can believe again, hope again, see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

There is a restoration in this life (Mark 10:30). The problem is most people look in the wrong place while others try to do restoration in their own efforts.

Maybe you are here, and you have lost something. God is NOT dead. the best for you is ahead of you, not behind you. Quit crying over spilled milk, the cattle a thousand hills belong to your dad.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. —John 10:10

- a) This passage reveals what the enemy or thief does and also reveals what God does. What God does is not to destroy but rather to restore.
- b) God is in the restoration business. Some have believed a lie and have not seen any restoration in their lives because they believe that it is God that is behind their loss, suffering and so forth.
- c) God's heart is one of restoration.
 - i) It may be years that you last trusted and believed God for restoration and probably you have given up. I'm here to speak life in your situation. Those dry bones can live again.

Has the enemy or life stolen from you? Are you on a situation where you have been told your will never recover? There is hope for you.

Watching the movie from the beginning, God created everything good and perfect. He did not create a single thing—evil or bad (Genesis 1). For restoration to occur, there has to be a loss from a previous state.

It is shocking that people would believe that God is something other than good. If God is not a good God, this would have been revealed right at the beginning.

- If man had not sinned, there would have been no need for restoration. Sin and its effects caused loss to occur for man.
- One of the reasons God is a God of restoration. He restores because He never intended for things to be bad and because He is a good God, He won't just sit and look on.
- Two, this is His nature. He wants good for His children.
- If God is not a God of restoration, we have every cause to fear, worry and panic.

This Communist Chinese corona virus has robbed some people not only of their lives but others of their finances. I believe what is going to happen is what Proverbs 13:22 says, "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just."

Do not lose heart! Do not fret! The victory that overcomes the world is our faith. If we stay in faith—believing and trusting God, we will overcome. If you have faith in the Lord Jesus, you will win. You will overcome. You cannot lose for winning!

Main Text:

And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. And David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke

of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all. —1 Samuel 30:1-8

David was in a very difficult place. He had lost all, and his devout men were now talking of killing him. This was a bad place.

How do you recover what Satan has stolen from you? Do you just let it go? Do you wish it will return?

- a) At this time, David was living with the Philistines and was given his own city called Ziklag, where he dwelt by King Achish.
- b) Invaded
When they arrived back at Ziklag, they found turmoil. They had been invaded by the Amalekites and the city had been burned with fire. All their belongings, including their children, their wives, and their cattle had been taken captive by the Amalekites.
- c) Distressed, grieved and discouraged.
 - i) It was a sad day and discouragement arose among David's men to the point that they wept until they could weep no more.
 - These were men that weeping, even more they were the so-called tough men—men of war!
 - This was rough!
 - ii) The men who were with him were so indignant that they spoke of stoning him.
 - iii) His life was in danger once again, not by Saul, but by his very men.
- d) You shall recover all.
 - i) David did not recover some, but all.
 - ii) There is hope for you if you want to see God restore whatever was lost or stolen.

e) Addition

David recovered all with addition

1 Samuel 30:20 "And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil."

- i) He recovered all and also got an addition.
- ii) David recovered all with addition

Cross Reference Text:

Joel 2:21 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things. 22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. 23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. 24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. 25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. 26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. 27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

- a) The context of these verses is speaking about a plague and/or a destruction that was about to befall the Israelites. God, through Prophet Joel was foretelling them of the destruction that was awaiting them and encouraging them to repent and avoid this judgement.
- b) God was going to use the Babylonians to come and judge, trash, plunder and destroy the land of the Israelites to a point of hunger, famine or death. A place that was like Eden was going to turn into a wilderness.
- c) Notice that this is after they had suffered the destruction. God was going to cause a restoration, not based on their goodness or repentance, but because of His love and mercy.
- d) After all that judgment had occurred, God was still going to be merciful to them. He was going to restore all that the enemy had destroyed and plundered.

- i) Abundance and restoration were going to come to them like never before. God was going to make Israel “Great again” Just as He has made America great again through President Donald Trump.
- e) He was also going to restore, not just the abundance and things lost and destroyed, He was going to restore the years.
- f) Notice this verse says the Lord said, “I will restore”. This establishes a truth that restoration is God’s will.

Even when we have screwed up, we can still humble ourselves, believe Him for a restoration.

If He did it for the Nation of Israel, how much more for us His very children—believers in Jesus.

A spiritual loss led to a physical loss

a) Relationship with God

- i) Due to the sin in the garden, we lost our relationship with God. This is the major reason Jesus came to earth for is to restore that relationship through His death on the cross for our sins.
- ii) God went the extra mile to show us His heart of restoration. What else can’t He do for us? How do you know Jesus loves you? He died for you. He took the bullet for you/us.
 - Understanding this is the foundation to a greater, deeper revelation, and experience of God’s love for us. Even when we do not feel loved, we can rest on the truth that Jesus died for us demonstrating His love for us
- iii) Those who have put faith in Jesus as their personal Lord and savior believing that He died on the cross for their sins and was resurrected (Romans 10:9-10) already have been reconciled to God. Their relationship with Him has been restored.
- iv) If you are watching or here in the audience and have not received Jesus as your Lord and savior, we going to give you an opportunity to win—Win big by believing on Him.
- v) I don’t care how big your loss is, God is so good to restore. If God was willing to restore the most important things of all—relationship with Him, what isn’t He willing to restore.

b) Identity

When we sinned we lost our true identity. There was identity theft or identity exchange. Through faith in Jesus, God restores that identity. Every believer has a new identity. We are no longer sinners. We are now children of God, having believed on Jesus.

- i) John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

c) Authority and dominion.

Genesis 1:26-28 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

- a) Shortly after God had given man all this immense dominion and authority, man relinquished it to Satan by heeding his voice of lies rather than God's. This caused the original state of all creation to be corrupted as man sinned.
- b) The original state of things started to go downhill. When man sinned, he took the perfect creation and plugged it into sin. All things degenerated. They went from good to bad and worse.
 - i) Sickness, disease, loss, pain, poverty, depression, death, separation from God and many more all came as a result of the fall of man.
- c) See Genesis 9:1 after the flood: "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."
 - i) God told man to be fruitful and multiply but did not tell him to have dominion and subdue the earth?
 - Why? Because man had already surrendered that authority and dominion to Satan.
 - ii) God was not going to restore that back to man by just talking. He was going to come and become a man to do this.

Jesus came and died on the cross restoring all the authority of what we had lost and many more. The first thing God did in restoring man was to restore his authority and He did that through Jesus.

John 5:27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

You have to exercise your God given authority to see that restoration manifest. You have a part to play in this restoration process.

Restoration is coming your way in the following areas

After we are born again, we do not need any restoration in our spirit man, but we do in our physical and soul realm.

This restoration happens as we cooperate with God through faith. Our Spirit man was recreated after we accepted and believed on Jesus. Believing goes for every area we would like to see manifestation in.

1. Finances

Maybe you have been cheated and taken advantage of by someone. God has the ability and the willingness to bring restoration to you in that area.

A. 1 Corinthians 6:6-8 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

i) We do not have to always have our way. We should be willing to be defrauded to advance the kingdom of God.

B. Example: A guy I worked for that took \$5000 from me that I had spent a whole year saving. This was my boss. I was his assistant and we made some verbal agreements that he later denied and eventually took this money from me. He stole from me.

- a) I took it to God and did not curse, fight, retaliate in any shape or form. I could have destroyed his life. I could have taken him on physically. This guy was a small 79-year-old. I chose not to and refused to do that. God spoke to me and said I will restore. Trust me.

I could have put him in a choke hold. He was no match for me.

- b) That same year I left him, and God restored about \$7000 dollars in about six months, yet I had spent a full year saving only \$5000.

- This did not happen without my cooperation. I was believing God to restore, and He did.

- c) God restored what the enemy had stolen from me with addition. Thank you, Jesus.

C. You do not have to recompense evil for evil. One of the reasons we do this is that we do not believe we will ever be repaid. If we believed we would be, we would respond differently.

- a) Romans 12: 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

- b) Two wrongs do not make a right.

D. IRS (tax officer such as Zacchaeus) could have cheated you, God can restore that.

Luke 19:2-8 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

- i) There is no robbery or cheating that does happen to us that God cannot or will not restore.

- An encounter with Jesus should never leave you the same. If it does, you have yet to encounter Him.

- Zacchaeus was also willing to give half to the poor of all his goods and restore fourfold (quadruple) or four times what he had defrauded to any man he had falsely accused.
- God brought restoration to those that were cheated through His encounter with Zacchaeus.

- ii) I'm not saying we should allow cheating us to occur because God will restore. That would be tempting God. It is similar to drinking poison willingly and knowingly believing that nothing will happen to you. You will surely die. That is not faith, but stupidity.

Example: A crooked moving company cheated me of about \$200, I wanted so bad to have them punished and lose the money they stole from me. I called my credit card company and they decided they would restore what the jokers had stolen from me.

Restoration does not always have to occur from the very person that took from you. God can bring it multiple other ways.

If you have stepped out in faith believing and trusting God but suffered a loss—big loss. There is hope for you. God is not blind to that. He will restore!

2. Physical and emotional Health

- a) Luke 6:10 And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.
 - i) There is no doubt that healing is a sign of restoration from God. He is restoring our physical health to align with His original plan of creation.
 - ii) Sickness has never been and will never be God's plan.
 - iii) You do not have to accept the doctor's report if it is a bad report. God is a God of restoration. Ask me or ask King David.
 - Do not stop believing. Restoration is coming to the believers. Believers believe.

3. Relationships

Example: Onesimus and Philemon (Philemon 1:10-21).

There are relationships in our lives that have been destroyed due to our foolishness or the other party's. Nonetheless, there are certain relationships that the Lord would like to restore. There is hope for a damaged relationship.

This could be:

- Parent-children relationship
- Brother-sister relationship
- Husband-wife (marriage) relationship
- Employee to employer relationship.

Paul was writing to plead for mercy from Philemon for Onesimus. Onesimus had run off as a slave from Philemon and somehow got into contact with Paul and they became close and friends.

Philemon 1:11, 15, 17-19 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me: For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him forever; If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account; I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

- a) God will sometimes use other relationships to restore our relationships.
- b) Paul shared how a blessing Onesimus had been to him and was beseeching Philemon not to punish him.

God wants us to live peaceably with all men if possible. Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Job

Job 1:1-3 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

- a) Calamity hit from the enemy—not God.
- b) If this was from God, then He would not have restored.

- c) Job saw a great restoration at the end. You need to watch the beginning of the movie and the end.

Job 42:10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Job 42:11 Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. Job 42:12 So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. Job 42:13 He had also seven sons and three daughters. Job 42:15 And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. Job 42:16 After this lived Job a hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. Job 42:17 So Job died, being old and full of days.

- a) In the life of Job you see a full package of restoration.
- b) Wealth, money, and possessions
- c) Children restored
- d) Relationships restored
- e) Long life

Examples of Restoration in the Scriptures

- A. Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
 - i) To those who love God and are called according to His purpose, all things will work together for good.
 - ii) God will somehow redeem the situation for us if we stay in faith, believing, and trusting Him.
 - iii) No matter what we are going through, there is restoration before us. We can step out in faith and believe God to see His goodness in the land of the living.
- B. Romans 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.* Hebrews 10:30 *For we know him*

that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

- a) This verse is emphasizing restoration.
- b) Many times, when we read this, we take it to mean that God will repay evil to those that have done us evil. Why would God tell us NOT to recompense evil for evil (Romans 12: 17) while He is doing the same?
- c) I believe this is rather saying that God will repay us what we have lost or has been taken or stolen from us.
 - i) I would prefer to be paid back than to have the other person punished and keep what belongs to me.
 - ii) **The vengeance of God repays us His children good (Proverbs 13:21).** It restores what the enemy has stolen from us.
 - Proverbs 13:21 *Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed.*
 - Notice it says Evil pursues sinners. This does not say God pursues sinners to repay them evil. It's not God that repays those who hurt us evil. Evil simply pursues the sinner.
 - Notice that the unlike what many have believed and prayed for, God does not repay those that do us evil with evil, but rather repays us good. The repayment of the righteous from God is "good." God is not the One repaying those who have wronged us with evil rather He is repays us (righteous) with good and to the wicked and the ungodly it is their very own evil that pushes them and repays them of the evil they have sowed.

Has the enemy or life stolen from you? Are you in a situation where you have been told you will never recover? There is hope for you.

C. Israel to their homeland

One of the greatest examples of God's restoration is how the children of Israel were restored back to their original homeland.

Jeremiah 16:14-15 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The

LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

- a) It was an awesome miracle when the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt, but it was an even greater miracle when the Lord brought the Israelites back from captivity.
- b) Israel is the only nation that has ceased to exist for thousands of years and yet been reborn as that same nation. The Hebrew language even ceased to be practiced and yet it has been reborn. We are witnessing a wonderful miracle in our lifetime, greater than that of the Exodus.” Andrew Wommack Living Commentary
- c) The Jews have been restored to their Promised Land by the Lord as we see today. Israel became a nation again in 1948. This is almost 2,000 years after it had ceased to exist as a nation. If God can do this for the nation of Israel over such a long timeframe that none of us ever thought, what is it that He cannot or will not restore.

1. Step 1: Look to Jesus

Not look to Rich or Pastor Rick or your spouse but Jesus.

- a) How? Encourage yourself in the Lord, then only did he receive direction or instruction from the Lord.
 - i) You are going to need to get in the Word and know God’s promises considering an area you want to see restoration in.
 - ii) Learn your God-given authority. Some of the things still lingering or not restored in our lives could be because we have not taken our God-given authority.
 - iii) Renew your mind. You are not going to see restoration if your mind is not renewed

2. Step II: Keep looking to Jesus

- a) The ephod—The equivalent of God’s Word. Jesus is the Word.

3. Step III: Keep on looking to Jesus:

- a) David went to the Lord and inquired of the Lord. He could not have done this outside His presence.

Conclusion

All restoration is not going to be fully experienced in this life, but in the life to come as well. Nonetheless, for a believer, it is a win- win.

I hear the Lord saying that Just be here at His feet. Focus on Him and stay in faith believing that restoration happening in your life.

You have to believe right to experience God's restoration. This restoration is going to happen only with your cooperation.

- a) Genesis 18:14 "Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."
- b) Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?"
- c) Habakkuk 3:17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: ¹⁸ Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

Do not look at your circumstances. Begin to rejoice. Your request has been granted. This miracle is beginning to happen right now. Please share a praise report with us.

Speak forth your restoration. Declare and decree in the mighty name of Jesus.