

Introduction:

- Last week I asked the question: What do you want to see restored in/to your life in 2016?
***Restoration — a return of something to an, original, normal, or unimpaired condition.
- We saw, that Biblically restoration is a major theme throughout the scripture. We recognized that restoration takes work. It is not done with resolutions and magic wands. We saw that restoration begins with observation by examining, assessing and taking ownership/responsibility for restoration.
- Restoration is the heart of God.
- *“When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact, the Lord gave him twice as much as before!”* (Job 42:10, NLT)
- *“Come back to the place of safety, all you prisoners who still have hope! I promise this very day that I will repay two blessings for each of your troubles.”* (Zechariah 9:12, NLT)
- We need restoration because of the things we have done to ourselves through bad choices. We need restoration because of things others have done to us. And we need restoration because of things that—“just happen”. Insurance companies call these things ‘acts of God’ accidents, sicknesses, etc..
- Restoration lets me see who He is, experience who He is and become like who He is. Restoration lets me see the heart of God.

I. Restoration Lets Me See Who He Is

- A. Job really received some revelation of who God is. Restoration came as Job began to see God as He is. Restoration is a good thing! God wants us, as His people, to see Him that way.
 1. When we look at Peter being restored to ministry after deny Christ three times. We see God as a God of restoration.
 2. When we look at the prodigal son returning to his father he gets, new shoes, new robe, new ring, new hugs and a feast with the fatted calf. That is a picture of lost humanity returning to Father and how graciously He restores.
 3. David commits adultery, murders his best warrior, and with a change of heart gets reinstated at a deeper place with God.
 4. Saul of Tarsus. Best Christian killer the Jews had. Top of the top in Pharisees yet he gets saved and goes through a total restoration process. Peter says of him, he gets revelation that at times is hard to understand. 2 Peter 3:15
 - a) And consider Paul comment in Romans 6:1 *Shall we keep on sinning so that God can show us more of His wonderful grace?* In other words His ability to restore is so great, that in the natural mind, it seems that we should make a mess so He can fix it. He fixes it better than before we made the mess.
- B. When we speak of restoration it is good for us to note that ***God desires to portray who He is through restoration.
 1. God is so awesomely magnificent at restoring!!! It began at the fall of Adam and Eve. Continually gets better until Christ and finishes with God living among His people.
- C. ***When God restores He restores to a place better than before. After sin, after Christ he did not just deal with the sin but he made us member of his own body. Now the fullness of Christ dwells in us and that is after he restored us to Him.
 1. Haggai 2:9...*and the glory of the latter house will be greater than the former.* Greater than Pentecost, etc, etc. Initially it was given to address the temple. Ie. Having an

initial target so you can have an ultimate target. IE. In shooting you have a target but I have to get the two initial target lined up before I pull the trigger. Born again is the initial target, ultimate target is to have the fullness within. Second temple was twice size of the original. Ps 84 Better is one day here than a thousand else where.

2. The Lord's heart has to be seen. ****"Our task is not to protest the world into a certain moral conformity, but to attract the world to the saving beauty of Christ." "I am not going to remove the scars from your life but I am going to arrange them so that they have the appearance of carving on a fine piece of crystal."
3. Restoration lets me see who He is.

II. Restoration Lets Me Experience Who He Is

- A. ****"Any area of our lives for which we have no hope is under the influence of a lie." Bill Johnson
 1. Zech 9:11 Prisoner free from the waterless pit. Prophetic language—Luke 11:24 spirit goes through dry places to dwell. Why? I don't know. But it makes the story of the pigs running into the water all the more funny.
 2. The demonic realm loves the dry places. In the prophets water almost always means Holy Spirit, rain= out pouring of Holy Spirit. Rivers of living water, pools springs, etc. The demonic hides where there is no visitation of God. When I experience God it is like rain on dry ground. It is life giving! When restoration comes to me I experience His love, His kindness, His wisdom, etc.
- B. Humility lets me step into the restoration that has for me. It opens the door for the rain of the Holy Spirit to fall on my life.
 1. Humility is me seeing my sin, or acknowledging my brokenness. It is the doorway that restoration enters. It is not our pride, or our ability to pull ourselves up but it is a broken and contrite heart before God.
 2. The Lord loves Job because he is so honorable and humble.
 - a) He sacrifices for his children regularly...just in case.
 - b) He does not throw his wife out when she says to him, "Curse God and die."
 - c) He does not get any with his friends when they are blaming him.
- C. Notice Job's response to God in Job 42:1 *"Then Job replied to the Lord: 'I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. You said, 'Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.'"* (Job 42:1–4 NLT)
 1. How many of you have talked confidently about things and later find you did not have a clue?
 2. *"When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact, the Lord gave him twice as much as before!"* (Job 42:10, NLT)
- D. It was in humility that Job received God's restoration.
 1. The Lord gave him twice as much as before.
 2. The enemy cannot destroy the purposes of God in a man who continues to trust God. God steps in and uses the very evil that was meant to destroy to propel us into breakthrough and promotion.

III. Restoration Lets Me Become Like He Is

- A. Those who have experienced restoration become the messengers of hope. Zechariah could prophesy to the 50K that returned. *"Come back to the place of safety, all you prisoners who still have hope! I promise this very day that I will repay two blessings for*

each of your troubles.” (Zechariah 9:12, NLT) I like the NKJV translation of “Come back to the stronghold.” God is a fortified place.

- B. ***“Those with the most hope will always have the most influence.” People are aching for hope right now. The ache of the heart right now is for hope.
1. IE. The Biblical use of hope is very different from our societies use of hope. To most people hope is something that you wish for.
 - (1) ie. “I hope I get this for Christmas, I hope I get the tickets for the concert, I hope I am able to lose weight this year. I hope it rains.”
 - b) ***Biblical hope is the joyful anticipation of good. It is the excited inward condition before something good happens.
 2. What makes hope difficult is you are in the middle of circumstances that deny why you should have hope. Your circumstances say one thing and you are saying another. The circumstances deny the promises that God has given you for your life. Yet you live with the joyful anticipation of God breaking into this impossible situation and showing himself strong. ie. “Many prisoners of war have said, “It was the hope of getting home to my wife, my family that kept me going. Those who lost that most usually died.”
- C. People need to know that there is place that is known as the stronghold of hope.
1. “I will restore double blessing.”
 2. The concept of restoration in scripture is so profound you would be encouraged when you suffer loss. It is a biblical way of thinking that doesn't cower when challenged.
 - a) ie. Some of you need to stop and say wait a minute I belong to the Lord. This works differently for me I am in the Lord. What the enemy means for harm God uses for good.
 - b) When I suffer loss I am positioned to get back double. That is what **Hope does, it reinterprets a circumstance.****
 3. The Lord's heart has to be seen.
 - a) “Our task is not to protest the world into a certain moral conformity, but to attract the world to the saving beauty of Christ.”
 - b) “I am not going to remove the scars from your life but I am going to arrange them so that they have the appearance of carving on a fine piece of crystal.”
 - c) I am not going to remove the scars but I will make them a place of boasting of my goodness.

Conclusion:

- God desires to portray who He is through restoration.
- God demonstrates who He is when we let Him work restoration in our lives.
- God declares who He is through restored vessels that carry the message of restoration.
- The cry of Zechariah is return/come back...“*Come back to the place of safety, all you prisoners who still have hope! I promise this very day that I will repay two blessings for each of your troubles.*” (Zechariah 9:12, NLT)