

**Introduction:**

- We are on the subject of restoration in the month of January. To restore means to bring something back to its original condition or unimpaired state.
- In the first week I asked the question: What do you want restored to you in 2016? I challenged you to look at your life and examine, assess and observe. Take responsibility and bring restoration to your life.
- Last week I shared on the topic of Restoration: It is the heart of God. God desires to portray who He is through restoration.
  - His pattern of restoration is double. I.e. Job received back 2 times what was taken. Zechariah - called out to the prisoners of hope to return and God would give back two blessings for each of their troubles.
  - Any area of your life that is without hope is under the influence of a lie. So return that area to God.
  - Is 61 & Luke 4:18-ff Reveal a glorious Jesus for those who know their need.

**I. The Need For Restoration**

- A. Since the fall of man the movement of man is go deeper into darkness without the intervention God. Adam sinned, Cain murdered his brother. God destroyed the world with the flood. The seed of death resides in all of us. And we are all moving closer to the grave daily. The Bible shows us the result of sin over and over again. Broken relationships, sickness, disease, poverty all a result or the fruit of sin.
- B. Joel 2:25-ff shows what is released on mankind when we choose to not walk in the ways of God. Swarming locusts, hopping locusts, stripping locusts, cutting locusts.
  1. Demons look for the dry places to inhabit. Do not let your life become dry of the life of God.
  2. Joel 2:3 describes everything lush before them but behind them fire and ashes.
  3. The four kinds of locusts in the passage are there to exhibit the thoroughness of hell in its destruction of people. These insects are destroyers leaving nothing but destruction behind them. No one is immune if we are not taught how to put them in their place.
  4. Hell itself is describe as place where the worm does not die because it will always be feeding on the souls of men. Death will always be present there.
  5. In our unsaved lostness this was our lives.
- C. But when Christ came into our lives! We were made new creations in Christ and the transformation began! Joel 2:28 *I will pour out my Spirit...* Joel prophesies the full restoration of those who repent. To see that happen you have to take ownership of the problem stop blaming others. Israel brought the locusts on themselves.
  1. People who blame other people never recover/restore because they live in a state of denial. Any time you blame another person for your problem, you give that person control of your life. With your blame, you are saying, "I can't get out until you let me out. I can't succeed until you allow me to succeed. I can't move forward in my life until you let me move forward." That's a lie of the devil!
  2. Unless you are able to accept responsibility for your actions, you will be eaten up with unresolved guilt. It will rot inside you and erupt in your life in the form of jealousy and anger and hatred and bitterness.
  3. We are these people the Restorer has come to!

## II. The Anointing To Restore

- A. The declaration of Is 61 and Luke 4:18 is that the Messiah will be empowered and authorized to restore. This is the highlight of what He does! I.e. Sports caster: we just had another marriage restored in Viera in 2015. Oh look, another woman spiritually and emotionally from bad past decisions. “The past is past and it doesn’t determine your future...but Jesus can sure help with that. Another back healed...
1. This means that when He begins He begins with the end in mind and has the power and authority to restore.
  2. The anointing is the presence of God. We want to be a Presence drive church. In fact to anoint means to “smear with oil”. I.e. First time to ‘rest in the Spirit’ at OCC.
  3. The anointing that destroys the yoke of bondage.
  4. Ps 89:20, 92:10 Messianic psalms that speak of anointing the King and of the strength the anointing brings. The Gospel is not just God knowledge it is God touch!
  5. The anointing brings the great exchange! It brings the restoration.
- B. The great exchange. This is all about identity. Who you are.
1. Beauty for ashes.
    - a) Ashes - It denotes that which is the result of burning. It is used figuratively for what is without value (Isa 44:20) or loathsome (Job 30:19). It signifies misery (Ps 102:9 [H 10]), shame (II Sam 13:19) Feinberg, C. L. (1999). 150 פאפ. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 66). Chicago: Moody Press. Ashes were what mourner usually threw into the air and let land on their head as a sign of mourning. So to be given a crown is a direct opposite.
    - b) Crown is the Hebrew word. Signifies-beauty, majesty and glory. To clothe with beauty.
  2. Blessing instead of mourning.
    - a) Mourning - Biblical mourning for the dead (expressed by *’abal, sāpad*, etc.) involved emotion, usually expressed audibly (Jer 22:18; 48:36) and visibly (Gen 37:34; Ps 35:14; Mic 1:8). Ashes were what mourner usually threw into the air and let land on their head as a sign of mourning.
    - b) Blessing - sason - joy, gladness, rejoicing.
  3. Praise instead of despair.
    - a) Garment is more of robe, or wrap. To be wrapped in praise, is to have put on a garment of undoing praise. (It is plural - meaning lots of it and many doing it.)
    - b) Spirit of heaviness.
- C. When the exchange takes place that activation to restore begins. The anointing brings the God part of the equation that empowers our part of the equation.

## III. The Command To Restore

- A. Restoration requires that we participate with God on three levels. Is 61:4 “*They will rebuild the ancient ruins, repairing cities destroyed long ago. They will revive them, though they have been deserted for many generations.*” (Isaiah 61:4, NLT)
1. Note: “They will” means that we are to be involved in the restoration process.
  2. Since ‘they’ are involved it means that there will be work involved.
  3. It also is a partnership with God. Imagine that! Partnering with God.

- a) From Nehemiah “*Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, “Yes, let’s rebuild the wall!” So they began the good work.*” (Nehemiah 2:18, NLT)
- b) Hand of God upon me refers to anointing.
- c) ‘They’ began to build.

#### B. Rebuild

1. The Heb. - bana means to build or rebuild according to plan.
  - a) God is called the wise master builder in the OT.
  - b) When God initial finished creating in the beginning He said, “It is good!”
  - c) When you build according to the plan of God, it is good. Ie. Build your marriage according to the plan of God. Parent according to the plan of God. Lead your business according to the plan of God.
2. When you build or rebuild you start with nothing and begin building with raw materials.
3. Some of you today feel that you have nothing. Where do we start? You start by finding a vision of what God wants you to build. It is in the Word. The Word is vital to us. Jn 6:63. It is Spirit and it is life.

#### C. Repair

1. Repair - The Hebrew verb *qûm* appears in many and varied contexts. Basically, it denotes rising up from a prostrate position. God reflects on this legal sense in his statements that his word shall stand (Num 23:19; Isa 40:8; etc.). Sometimes, *qûm* connotes anticipated or realized victory. Coppes, L. J. (1999). 1999 דִּקְ. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 793). Chicago: Moody Press.
2. When repairing you basically have something to work with when you start. It is just broken. See also Is. 58:12. Ie. Antique lamp, horse trunk, remodel of house.
3. Some of you today are struggling with marriage, relationships, work. You have all the parts they just are not functioning according to design. Some struggling with character issues. You have the parts it just needs restoration. Health...you have to do something about it.

#### D. Revive - Heb. Hadas - new, renew, fresh. To cause to live. A destroyed city cannot be inhabited. But rebuild the city and people will move into it. So to revive the city is not just to make it inhabitable but to actually have living people in it.

1. “*Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.*” (Psalm 51:10, NLT)
2. “*Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to you again! Give us back the joys we once had!*” (Lamentations 5:21, NLT)
3. “*When you give them your breath, life is created, and you renew the face of the earth.*” (Psalm 104:30, NLT) That Jn 6:63 again.

#### E. Therefore as you get involved in the restoration process you will need to have a picture of what God is wanting. You start with nothing so build it. You restore what you have so your repair it. When you have built or repaired used it...give it life. Bring the Life of God into it.

#### Conclusion:

- Recognize your need.
- Repent if repentance is needed.
- Invite Jesus to lead you in the restoration process.
- Get to work.