

Introduction:

- Review
 - We began with the question: "What do you want God to restore to you in 2016?"
 - We looked at Restoration: The Heart of God. From the Word we saw that it is the heart and nature of God to Restore. If we really believe that we would look at loss differently. Job 42 and Zechariah 9:12.
 - Last week Is 61, Restoration: Partnering with God. We saw the potential we have when we partner with God to allow the anointing (God's Presence) and our lives come together. The divine exchange. And when that happens they rebuild, repair and revive.
- Kelly's step dad restores old vehicles for fun. I have seen him restore a '67 Camaro and '62 Corvette, '55 an '56 Ford pickups. You could say he is a restorer. He takes an old rusty piece of junk and when he is done it looks like it just came off the showroom floor. Our God is a restorer!
- Today we want to look more at the process of restoration. How does it happen?

I. God Is A Restorer

- A. The Restorer has heart to restore. Joe loves to restore cars. God loves to restore people!
 1. He has been in the restoration business since Adam and Eve first sinned.
 2. The Bible is a book of God the Restorer
 - a) *"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)
 - b) *"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)
 3. He went so far as to give His Son that we might be restored. He has a heart to restore.
- B. The Restorer has the original schematic/blue prints
 1. The Creator knows the inner workings of the created. Knows # of hairs on your head.
 2. The Creator knows the original design for manhood and womanhood.
 3. The Creator knows the original design of marriage and family.
 - a) Hosea and his wife
 - b) The Father and the prodigal
 4. The Creator knows the original design for health.
 5. The Creator knows the original design for finances. Generosity give and it shall be given.
- C. The Restorer has the time
 1. He is patient not wanting any to perish. *"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent."* (2 Peter 3:9, NLT)
 2. He is not interested in a quick work He is interested in a thorough work.
 3. He can look at the project for a long time before He takes any action

II. I Need Restored

- A. If God has a heart to restore and He does, and if God has the original schematic/blueprints/specs and He does, and if time is not an issue for Him and it isn't, then I should let Him begin work immediately. God only restores those who cry out to Him.
1. God restores those who cry out to Him.
 2. God restores those who are willing to be restored according to the original plans
 3. God restores those who are willing to work with His time table. Diff. steps/diff time.
- B. The first step to restoration is to realize and admit you need restored. There came a point in my life that I knew I had messed me up bad enough and I needed God to straighten it all out. (Read list of lies).
1. Life has dealt all of us wounds and scars from multiplied places. Some of those scars came because of choices we made. Some of those scars came from choices forced upon us. Some of those scars just happened.
 - a) You may have had a bad father or a bad mother. Now you are a dad and the only roll model you had was a loser, what do you do?
 - b) You may have had no dad at all, or no mom at all. Now you are a dad and don't know what to do. What do you do?
 - c) You may have had your heart broken by your first love. Now you don't trust anyone to love you. Now you do not let anyone in close to your heart. What do you do?
 - d) You may have been scarred by someone else's careless words. Rejection, sarcasm.
 2. The first step to restoration is putting your life into the Master's hands. Trust Him to save you and not destroy you. Trust Him to restore you not throw you away.
 3. This means you have to submit yourself to God. *"So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7, NLT) 2 Chron 7:14 *If my people will humble...*
 4. Submission to God is submitting to the restoration process. Pride is what stops the majority of us from moving on to life (zoe). I call that a godship issue. You are afraid of giving God control of your life. Submission to God and God's ways has to do with His Lordship in our lives. If you want life, He has to be Lord. Why? He has the original design.
- C. The second step is to realize He has the original plans and specifications and submit to the process.
1. We must find out what the specifications are. Those come from the Word of God.
 - a) Washed *"to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word."* (Ephesians 5:26, NLT) Rebuild, repair, revive Is 61:4
 - b) *"The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."* (John 6:63, NLT)
 - c) "The Word works for those who will work the Word." Pastor Tim

- d) The Word is how God disciplines us.
- 2. That means He will have to take some of you down to the bare metal. He may have to cut some rusted parts out of your framework. At times that is really painful because that is the only identity that you have know. It is who you have been all your life and you are fearful to let that part of your life go for the great exchange! You are thinking I will not know how to act with this different identity.
- 3. That means He may have to take some parts out of you that are not original.
 - a) Anger, lust, bitterness, unforgiveness, laziness are not part of the original design.
 - b) Some of the ways you men are living are not according to the original pattern.
- D. The third step is repentance & committing to the work. God and I are partnering here.
 - 1. Repentance is not just turning away from something, it is turning to something. Repentance is not just a turning away from sin it is turning to God and His original specs. If I turn away from a sin it does not mean that I turn to God. ie. If I quit abusing my wife (whether verbally or emotionally) it does not mean that I have started loving her. Repentance means I have turned away from what is not like God to that which is like God. His specifications.
 - 2. The first part of committing to the work is to receive the 'heart change' by faith. I give up my heart of stone for His heart of flesh. *"And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart."* (Ezekiel 36:26, NLT) This heart change occurs every time you submit your ways to the ways of God. Salvation is more than fire insurance.
 - 3. The second part of the committing to the work is making visible the outside the change that has taken place inside. *"... Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear."* (Philippians 2:12, NLT)
 - 4. Don't be afraid of time. Much of the restoration we go through takes time.
 - a) It takes time to unlearn bad habits.
 - b) It takes time to renew your mind with God's word.
 - c) It takes time to understand the value of what you are doing. Some people are slow learners.
 - d) It takes time to repeat the process if you do not get it the first time.
- E. The fourth step is entering into accountability.
 - 1. Accountability relationships:
 - a) Help us create and keep measurable goals in the restoration progress.
 - b) Have great power to help us guard our steps. A spiritual mentor/friend can help identify weaknesses, circumstances, and vulnerabilities and help steer a clear course.
 - 2. Provides periodic evaluations of progress and new godly standards of living.
 - 3. Graham Cooke: One objective of the household of faith, "To cultivate a safe place where we can unlearn and learn how to be in Christ."
 - 4. In speaking of accountability, there are over 21 'one another' scriptures in the NT. Love one another, be kind, be hospitable, etc, etc.

- F. The fifth step in restoration is abiding.
1. Rest is the key. *"Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.""* (Matthew 11:28-30, NLT)
 2. Abide in Him don't just visit. *"You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. **Remain** in me, and I will **remain** in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you **remain** in me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who **remain** in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone **who does not remain** in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned."* (John 15:3-6, NLT) You rest best when you are abiding or remain in Him.
 3. Walk after the Spirit. *"So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves."* (Galatians 5:16, NLT)

Conclusion:

- If I am going to be restored by God. I have to admit I have issues, brokenness etc. I have to confess that to Him and submit myself to his plan for my life and His specifications. In doing so, I turn from my ways to His and I commit to living according to His Word or His specifications. I will best accomplish this with others and my greatest joy will be abiding in Him.
- Start with Jesus.