

**Introduction:**

- We started the question in this series. What do you want God to restore to you in 2016? Write them down. Visit them often.
- Restoration means to return something to a former , original, normal or unimpaired condition.

**I. Restoration: Prelude to the Process**

- A. Restoration is all through the Bible.
  1. It is the entirety of what God's word is all about.
  2. It is the theme of Jesus ministry.
- B. Restoration is work.
  1. It is work because it involves us!
    - a) I have to see the need and the possibilities in God.
    - b) Jn 6:29 *"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."*
- C. Restoration begins with observation and ownership.

**II. Restoration: The Heart of God**

- A. Restoration lets me see who He is.
  1. God desires to portray who He is through restoration.
  2. Job 42:10 *"When Job prayed for his friends the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact the Lord gave him twice as much as before."*
  3. Zech *"Come back to the place of safety all your prisoners who still have hope. I promise this very day that I will repay two blessings, for each of your troubles."*
  4. When God restores He restores to a place better than before.
  5. In other words, His ability to restore is so great that in the natural mind, it seems that we should make a mess of things so He can fix it. Ro 6:1 *Shall we sin that grace may abound?*
  6. The concept of restoration is so profound in scripture that we should be encouraged when we suffer loss. That is hope! It reinterprets difficult circumstance.
- B. Restoration lets me experience who He is.
  1. "Any area of my life that is without hope is an area under the influence of a lie." Bill Johnson.
- C. Restoration lets me become like who He is.
  1. Those who have experienced restoration become messengers of hope.
  2. Those with the most hope have the greatest influence.
  3. People need to know that there is a place called the stronghold of hope. Zech 9:12

**III. Restoration: Partnering with God. Is 61 & Luke 4:18**

- A. The need for restoration
  1. Man has needed restoration since the fall in the garden.
  2. Humanity is broken, diseased and dying. From the moment a child is born they are heading towards death.
  3. Christ came to reverse the curse of death.

- B. The anointing to restore
  - 1. The divine exchange
    - a) Ashes for a crown.
    - b) Spirit of heaviness for garment of praise.
    - c) blessing instead of mourning
    - d) festive praise instead of despair
- C. The command to restore.
  - 1. Is said that when the divine exchange has occurred the redeemed will:
    - a) re-build the cities
    - b) repair the cities
    - c) revive the cities

#### IV. Restoration the Process

- A. God is a Restorer
- B. I need restored. God restores those who cry out to him. He has the heart and the original blueprints
  - 1. First, Restoration begins when I realize and admit I need restored.
  - 2. Second, we have to believe that He has the original schematics and submit to the process.
  - 3. Third, I must repent and commit to the work.
  - 4. Fourth, enter into accountability.
  - 5. Fifth, abide in Him. Rest in Him. Walk with Him. Abide in Him.

#### V. Restoration: He Has Heard Your Prayers Ez 36 & 37

- A. God is a Restorer
  - 1. Ps 137 we put away our harps. It was a picture of their inability to find a song/God in the midst of their sorrow.
  - 2. The state of the bones 37:11 discouraged, depressed, humiliated and heart broken, filled with hate. 137:8 Smash their babies on the rocks.
- B. God takes the initiative
  - 1. Ezekiel prophesied to the land.
  - 2. Can these bones live again?
  - 3. Ezekiel prophesied to the bone.
- C. Back to reality.
  - 1. Next 10 years Ezekiel prophesied hope and worked to help them believe.
  - 2. 47:1-ff Everything the river touches lives.

#### Conclusion:

- Ezekiel, can these bones live? Only you know Lord.
- Jesus, Jn 10:10 I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly!
- The Restorer is come! Lets live! Choose to live! Choose to bring Life himself into your world!