RESTORING WOUNDED SOLDIERS

(How To Respond To Those Who Are Overtaken In A Fault)
Galatians 6:1-5

RESPONDING GOD’S WAY
◆ Through Genuine Meekness
◆ Through Self Examination
◆ Through Pure Motives

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted”
(Galatians 6:1)

Bill Kirk
“RESTORING WOUNDED SOLDIERS”

Subject: The Power Of God In you – Released To Heal The Wounded!

Introduction

Question: How many of you have ever lost something and wanted to find it?
Question: How many of you have ever misplaced something that you would need later?
Question: How many of you have ever once had something, but somehow it slipped away?

3 Questions Today:
#1. What does it mean to restore?
#2. When does God promise to restore?
#3. How can you be a person of restoration instead of exploitation?

What Does It Mean To Restore?

Fact: There are 3 Hebrew words in the Old Testament used for the word “Restore” (and)
Fact: There are 3 Greek words in the New Testament used for the word “Restore”.

#1. Psalm 23:3 “He restoreth my soul”
   ◆ The Hebrew word for “Restoreth” is (SHUWB).
   ◆ It means to recover, refresh, relieve, rescue, take back, retrieve and pull in again.

#2. Jeremiah 30:17 “For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord”.
   ◆ The Hebrew word for “restore” here is (ALAH).
   ◆ It means to ascend upward, to climb, to get up, to grow, to rise, and to recover.

#3. Joel 2:25 “I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten...and you shall be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord you God”
   ◆ The Hebrew word for “Restore” here is (SHALAM).
   ◆ It means to make amends, to finish, to give again, to make restitution.

#4. Matthew 17:11 “And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elijah truly shall first come, and restore all things”.
   ◆ The Greek word for “Restore” here is (APOKATHISTEMI)
   ◆ It means to reverse, restore, and reconstitute.

#5. Luke 19:8 “And Zachaeus 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”.
   ◆ The Greek word for “Restore” here is (APODIDOMI)
   ◆ It means to deliver, to give, to recompense, to restore.

#6. Galatians 6:1 “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”
   ◆ The Greek word for “restore” here is (KATARTIZO).
   ◆ It means to repair, complete, adjust, mend and restore.
Put all six verses together, and the word “Restore” means:

1. To recover   5. To retrieve   9. To get up   13. To deliver
2. To refresh   6. To ascend   10. To rise   14. To recompense
3. To relieve   7. To mend   11. To finish   15. To repair
4. To rescue   8. To adjust   12. To make amends   16. To complete

**Question:** How many of you believe that God still restores like He said He restores?

I. **When Does God Promise To Restore?** *(All read Joel 2:25-27)*
   1. Joel’s message was one of calling to repentance.
   2. He prophesies during the reign of Uzziah.
   3. There has been a visitation of a plague of locusts.
   4. Famine and plague have devastated the land,
   5. And Joel calls Judah to repentance.

**Question:** Why the call to repentance?

**Answer:** Because God promises (through Joel) that revival and refreshing follow prayer, fasting and repentance.

◆ There is coming an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh.

**(Verse 25) The Key Verse**

“I will restore to you the years that the locust has taken away”

◆ Here the locusts had destroyed the produce of that year and for years to come.
◆ The locusts ate up all the buds and de-barked all the trees. (Recovery would take years).
◆ Now God promises to restore those lost years to come. (Those ahead)
◆ Or, God would miraculously restore the land to fertility.

**(In Other Words God Is Saying)**

◆ What should take several years to be repaired, healed and restored (God says),
◆ I will come suddenly to do it if we will rend our hearts in humility.

**Question:** Pastor, what did Israel lose that needed to be restored?

#1. **Israel lost a clear conscience** *(Chapter 1:1-13)*

◆ The invasion of locusts was the consequence of Judah’s sin.
◆ Judah knew they were out of step with God and pressure was upon them to turn to the Lord.
◆ God was pricking their hearts to restore them to a clear conscience.

**Question:** Do you need to be restored to a clear conscience today?

#2. **Israel lost the joy of the Lord** *(Chapter 1:16)*

“Is not the meat cut off before your eyes, yea joy and gladness from the house of our God?”

◆ Joel gives a picture of a sad farmer.
◆ Corn was calling the reaper, grapes were calling to be pressed out, the harvest was now, but unable to be enjoyed.

**(Each year the harvest was characterized by two things:)**

(Pg. 2 of 5)
#1. Thanksgiving to God (and) #2. Great rejoicing and joy by everyone.
◆ But now, joy and gladness had turned into sour grapes.
**Question:** Do you need to be restored to the joy of the Lord?

##3. Israel Lost Confidence in Battle (Chapter 2:21)
(V. 21) "Fear not, for God will do great things"
**Question:** Why was Israel full of fear?
**Answer:** Because the Chaldean army was about to invade.
◆ In (2:18) The Lord is jealous for you.
◆ In (2:19) The Lord will restore your loss.
◆ In (2:20) "I will remove the enemy army far from you."
◆ In (2:21) "Fear not" (why?) “Because the Lord is planning to do great things”
**Question:** Have you lost any confidence in God because of a battle, a test, a problem, a challenge, an impending obstacle before you?

##4. Israel Lost the Togetherness in Their Own Families (Chapter 3:6)
◆ Israeli families were being divided, (why?)
◆ Slave trading had become an injustice.
◆ Men and women were being sold in Greece and Egypt.
◆ Yet God promises to reverse the enemy tactic to divide and spoil.
◆ God promises to restore the families to their rightful place of inheritance.
**Question:** Has the enemy been seeking to divide and devour your family?
**Question:** Any hostility, unresolved conflict, wounds or walls between you and a family member?
**Question:** What does God come to us to restore?

#1. God wants to restore to a clear conscience (and wash away every sin).
#2. God wants to restore the joy of the Lord (and replace the sour grapes with a grateful spirit).
#3. God wants to restore your confidence in battle (and remove every fear of failure).
#4. God wants to restore the togetherness (where there is conflict in the home and relationships).

*(Let’s Ask Ourselves)*

#1. Do I have a clear conscience (am I free from sin?)
#2. Do I have the joy of the Lord (or am I eating on sour grapes?)
#3. Do I have confidence in battle (am I believing God to give me my mountain?)
#4. Do I need to be restored to a family member, (is there anyone I need to forgive who has wounded me?)

*(God Says)*

“I will restore what the locusts have eaten” (or)
◆ What should naturally take years to do, I will do suddenly in the supernatural!!!

###II. How Can You Be A Person Of Restoration Instead Of Exploitation?

*(Let’s all read Galatians 6:1-5)*

**Question:** What is the awesome revelation from Paul in Galatians?
**Answer:** 3 Things that build healthy people:
#1. **The fallen are a part of kingdom living**

(V. 1) “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault”

◆ The word “Man” refers to any person (man or woman) who is flesh and blood like the rest of us. (we all face temptation)
◆ The word “Overtaken” means to be taken by surprise or unexpectedly.
◆ It refers to a believer who suddenly trips and falls into sin.
◆ It is a revelation that no one is exempt from satan’s prowl to devour us and tempt us and exploit us.

#1. The fallen are a part of kingdom living

#2. **The fallen need your help, not your criticism**

(V. 1) “Restore in the spirit of meekness”
(V. 2) “Bear ye one another’s burden”

#1. Restore (or, set the broken bone back in its place)
#2. Bear (or, consider the one overtaken as your own case at hand) Help them!

**Fact:** The “Spiritual” in (v. 1) refers to those in (chapter 5:22 & 23) who are bearing the 9 fruits of a spiritual walk with God.

*(It Is No Secret)*

◆ The fallen need your help, not your criticism.

#1. The spiritual believer seeks to mend and heal, the carnal believer seeks to exploit to look good himself.
#2. The spiritual believer moves with meekness and love, the carnal believer moves with pride and condemnation.

#1. The fallen are a part of kingdom living,
#2. The fallen need your help, not your criticism.

#3. **The fallen demand a spiritual response**

**Question:** What is my attitude towards those who need to be restored?

**Attitude #1. Meekness**

(V. 1) “Restore in a spirit of meekness” (which means) gentleness and humility.
◆ The proud condemn to elevate themselves.
◆ The humble are gentle because they know their own fallibility.

**Attitude #2. Examination**

(V. 1) “Considering yourself”
◆ The Greek Word for consider here is (SKOPEO) which means “to look at intensely”.

*(In Other Words)*
◆ When another stumbles and falls, it is time to search my own heart for weeds.

**Attitude #3. Responsibility**

(V. 4) “Let every man prove his own work”
(V. 5) “Let every man bear his own responsibility” *(Which Means:)*
#1. Test your own motives and attitude.
#2. Judge your own self instead of another.
III. **A Caution To All Who Restore** (Matthew 7:1-5)

#1. When someone falls, it's time for compassion not censorship.
#2. It is time to pull them up, not push them away.
#3. It is time to consider the beams in our own eye, not the failures of another.
#4. It is time to fear God and shut my mouth to all criticism and exploitation.

Question: How does Jesus describe one who is harsh on others (instead of themselves)?
Answer: (V. 5) "Thou hypocrite"
Question: Why a hypocrite?
Answer: Because we are failing to remember that God in Christ has forgiven us!

◆ God didn’t judge us (He forgave us).
◆ God didn’t exploit us (He covered us).
◆ God didn’t shame us (He restored us).

**Verse 5 Reveals This**

◆ That until we get the beam out of our own eye, we can’t help anybody.

**Why Not?**

◆ Because, until we repent of our own sin, we can’t see clearly to help those who need restoring!

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor