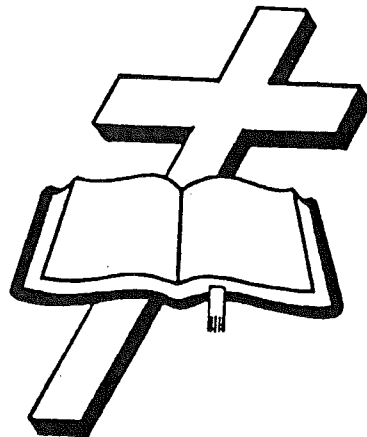


RESTORING WOUNDED SOLDIERS

(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 an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted”
(Galatians 6:1)**

Bill Kirk

“RESTORING WOUNDED SOLDIERS”

Text: Matthew 7:1-5 / Galatians 6:1-5 / Joel 2:25

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:)

#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