

The God Who Restores

I. What Does It Mean to *Restore*?

- To return to a former state
- To give back something that has been taken
- Biblical Definition:
 - To receive back more than has been lost, to the point where the final state is greater than the original condition

Job 42:1-10 NIV

Then Job replied to the LORD: ²“I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. ⁴“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ ⁵My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. ⁶Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” ⁷After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has. ⁸So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.” ⁹So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job’s prayer. ¹⁰After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.

Job 42:16-17

¹⁶After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. ¹⁷And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

- God wants to restore you into your original purpose, the reason that He made you.

II. God Will Restore Our Health

Don't stop believing God for healing. Our God is not dead, but He is alive and well.

Jeremiah 30:17a NIV

But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,’ declares the LORD...

III. God Will Restore Our Soul

Your soul is made up of your mind, your will and your emotions. Sometimes we can go through something so painful that it messes up our emotions and how we process life.

Psalms 23:1-3 NKJV

The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul...

IV. God Wants to Restore Our Time

Joel 2:25a

So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten...

V. 5 Principles for Restoration:

1. Always look for pieces that can be restored.
 - God is always looking for people that he can restore.
2. See the potential.
 - God bought you with his blood knowing that you have been made for this moment, positioned for purpose and created for cause. God doesn't see you where you are. He sees you for who he has created you to be. He sees you for who you can become.
3. Many times, when in the restoration process, things get worse before they get better.
 - God is restoring you right now, even if things look bad. Don't compare yourself to the finished product (or others). There is potential. Focus on what you are called to become.
4. Don't confuse restoration with an upgrade.
 - While new things may be appealing, you may have to put in work to get to that point. There's always a process.
5. Restoration is a process.
 - If you miss a step in the process, you will not get the finished that product that you desire.

VI. Next Steps in Your Restoration Process:

1. All restoration begins by fully accepting Jesus into your heart today.
2. Get water baptized.
3. Find a church home and complete their introduction program.
4. Join a small group. Real life change happens in the context of relationships.
5. Serve in your local church.