

# Replenish- Part Nine – Encountering God

August 28, 2022

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## BIG IDEA - Lean into God's Restorative Power

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**scripture focus – Psalm 27:4-5 ESV** *4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of his tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.*

Good morning, Life Center today we're in the closing chapter of Replenish.

Throughout this Replenish Series Pastor Glenn has shared about the margins, being that we must make time to look, see, consider and think. We can't wait to reflect; we must make time to reflect. We encountered the Psalms, and how there's a psalm for almost everything. Pastor Glenn shared about how we need one another, and we explored the different ways we worship generationally. Last week Pastor Emily shared about faith that requires action.

Today, we are leaning into God's restorative power. In God's presence there is healing, there is peace, there is unity. In God's presence, the troubles of this world dissolve. In fact, at the mention of the name of Jesus, as it says in Philippians, every knee in heaven and earth and under will bow. There is power in the name of Jesus, power that heals, renews, removes bondage, sheds light, that brings freedom.

- I grew up in a Spanish Assembly of God church on Pico Blvd in the heart of Koreatown in LA. This community was pretty much 50/50 Korean and Latin-American.
- The first time my parents took us to an Asian restaurant, they told us, "You never know where God will take you, so you have to learn to eat whatever is in front of you".
  - o We didn't like tofu then, but it's alright now.
  - o My parents had us eating Korean BBQ and kimchi early on, we did like that.

- My church growing up was very much a Pentecostal Assembly of God church. I had experiences as a kid that forever marked me in my faith. Some good, some not so good, but I can tell you this. I had the chance to
  - o To see and hear testimonies of miraculous healing
  - o To see addicts be set free
  - o To encounter the presence of God

I remember going to church as a teenager and people would be worshipping, and the felt presence of God would be in the room and I felt unclean. I had feelings of unworthiness.

Maybe it was because I was rude to my parents that morning before church. Or something that I did in the week that was haunting my conscience. These feelings of guilt and shame would distract me from worshipping, would keep me from pursuing God.

Don't raise your hand, but have you ever felt like you needed to *clean up* before going to God?

## **1. You can go to God with confidence**

### **Psalm 27:4-5 ESV**

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of his tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.

The root of David's confidence, the platform on which he operated was his delight in communion with God. To look to God's perfection, to not be afraid to go to God, to not feel like he needed to be a certain way before he sought to enter God's presence.

The current philosophy of this world tells you to do whatever you want, whenever you want to, no matter the consequences, and if anyone says anything about it, they don't care about you.

That not us, not for us. So why is it that when we fall into temptation, or when we sin, we are afraid to go to God? Adam and Eve did it too

### **Genesis 3:8 ESV**

...They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the Garden

That was Adam and Eve, this is the people of Israel

**Psalm 81:12 ESV So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.**

This is what Paul says in Ephesians about no longer walking like gentiles.

### **Eph 4:18-19 ESV**

They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greed to practice every kind of impurity.

Paul tells the Ephesians to not be like this world. If we've heard of Jesus, then we must not be like the world. That's the former world, the world of darkness. Jesus gave us light. Paul says in

### **Ephesians 4:23-24 ESV**

To be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Do we turn into the libertine passions of this world because it "feels right"? or do we lean into our creator?

What do we do with this guilt and shame?

Guilt settles in the moment we give in to temptation, shame is when we try to cover that up.

Is his grace not sufficient for thee?

Paul speaking of his encounter with Christ says in

### **2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV**

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Paul knows that in the flesh we want to hide our shame. How do we know when we're trying to hide?

- I will do better (flesh, my own volition, next time will be different)
- It's all good (it wasn't that bad anyway; I didn't hurt anyone else)
- People need to be more compassionate (emotionalism)
- I need to join this ministry or that project so that I won't go back to this (rebranding)
- It's all about God, not about me (avoiding the issue)
- Christians are hypocrites (despair)

How do we get out of this cycle?

Come back to Jesus, Open your heart to his Love and Forgiveness

- But so and so might look at me funny
- But that preacher on the radio condemned me for my sin

## **2. God wants to pour into you**

- a. He sent his son that we would have eternal life

### **Colossians 1:22-23a NLT**

Yet now he (God) has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, He has brought you into his own presence, and you are HOLY and BLAMELESS as you stand before him without a single fault. But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News...

- b. Not only that, but his love for you is everlasting. His kindness toward you never fails.

### **Jeremiah 31:3 NIV**

I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

### **1 John 4:18-19 ESV**

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.

- c. Not only that, but everything changes when you let God pour into you.

### **Psalm 37:3-4 ESV**

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

- Note it does not say befriend the *unfaithfulness* and delight yourself in *the things of this world*
- Delighting yourself in the lord comes out through praise and thanksgiving.
- Committing your ways to God, "every step I take I take in you"

### **Story:**

I was on the Prayer Ministry Staff at the Pasadena International House of Prayer, we didn't serve pancakes, we prayed, a lot. Pastor Glenn shared about the process in which many worship songs are written, where believers gather and read scripture, pray scripture, sing scripture and ask the spirit of God to lead them in singing new songs. Some of the songs that have been birthed out of the House of Prayer are, Worthy of it All, All Consuming Fire, when you walk into the room...

When I was ministering at the House of Prayer. I was driving for uber, working with my mom doing immigration work, I drove about a thousand miles a week in my blue Jetta. I didn't have the career ministry that I thought I was going to get when I graduated. Many of my peers were at beautiful Orange County Churches, and I was driving around LA county... I was jealous sometimes, but I always had gas, I never went hungry, I would lead the Saturday night prayer ministry where on any given weekend we had reports of inner healing, physical healing, confirmations of what people were praying for, amazing testimonies of people encountering God for this first time. I would get tired, more than once I wanted to throw in the towel, I would go from 8 hours of house of prayer to driving uber until 4 in the morning and every weekend, Friday and Saturday that I worked uber and served in ministry, I had gas, I had food, God supplied my needs. I put my trust in the LORD, I did what he called me to do, it was sacrificial, I was faithful to the ministry he had entrusted me to; and He continued to pour into my life.

- On any given weekend 80-120 persons were ministered to personally by my teams.
- I consecrated every single weekend for just about 2 years.
- The other prayer team members they did it just as much as I did

- We did it because God was pouring into us, God poured into us and that enabled us to pour out.
- When God blesses you, you can't help but share of what he's done in your life.

### 3. God wants you to pour out

Last week Pastor Emily shared about how everyone has someone they're an elder to. Your experiences, your skillset, your life is valuable to the person who's older than you and the person younger than you. You may be retired from your day job or be looking forward to retiring from your day job, but we've all got a role to play in God's kingdom.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV**

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

### Returning to **Ephesians 4:29-32 ESV**

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

- The number one way that we can pour out from God's blessing in our life is by encouragement. Look to the person next to you, the person behind you, the person sitting across from you. Tell them, "You look good today"!
- Many times, when we talk about serving, we limit ourselves to outreach, we think of missions, we think of working in the kid's ministry. But it's more than that. It's in the way you share a smile, the way you share an encouraging word. Where you allow the Holy Spirit to speak through you when you know someone is going through a difficult experience, maybe similar to what you had encountered in the past.

### **Romans 15:1-2 ESV**

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

I want us to pray and encouraging prayer for one another. If we could all stand if we're able, Look to the persons around you. Let's take this time to build up and edify.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Encouragement

## Scriptures

Psalms 27:4-5 ESV

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are HOLY and BLAMELESS as you stand before him without a single fault. But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News...

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## Questions

**Q:** Throughout this series we've shared about different ways to replenish, what's something that has stood out to you most?

**Q:** Have you ever dealt with moments where you felt like you needed to clean up before you went to God? How did it go? Is it something that you've been able to conquer?

**Q:** Guilt and Shame is how the system of this world operates, in what ways does replenishing with God's word empower you away from guilt and shame?

**Q:** God gives us wisdom and understanding as we seek his word, what scripture has been highlighted to you and how can you encourage others in the group with it today?

**Q:** We encounter friends, co-workers, and acquaintances that may not have relationship with Jesus. Remember that they don't have the peace of God like you and I do. Will you pray that God bring someone to mind? How can you encourage them today?