

RESTORING THE FALLEN

Did you know part of our spiritual walk is to help gently restore fellow believers caught up in or returning to sin?

We are to carry one another's burdens

Gal 6:1-5 Brethren, if a man is ^[a]overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵ For each one shall bear his own load.

This is a call to deliverance to do all we can to restore those who have fallen aside or been trapped by sin

RESTORATION V. 1

Paul is telling us as believers part of our DNA is to realize the situation someone overtaken by sin returning to a lukewarm life and are now in rebellion toward God

Who are the ones doing the rescuing? Those walking in line with the Spirit, those who are spiritual

Gal 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ ^[g]gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

So many in the body of Christ think this is the Pastor's and leaders job. Why?

Because it requires our lives to be characterized by the fruit of the Spirit, especially longsuffering and gentleness

AS BELIEVERS OUR JOB IS TO RESTORE V. 1

Greek word for restore is katartizo – means to mend nets, set a broken bone, put something back in its proper working order

Church, the goal is always healing, not punishment and gossip, judging without knowing the facts

So many people today have nothing to do with the church because they gave the church a try but no one was willing to see them completely restored!

It's a job that may be time consuming and thankless but it's our calling

WE MUST BE ON GUARD

Watch out lest you also be tempted

Church, humility is required in this ministry because anyone is capable of falling into the same temptation

We must all guard our heart against a self-righteous attitude v. 3

**Pro 4:23 NIV Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.**

WE ARE TO BEAR EACH OTHERS BURDENS V. 2

Burdens are the heavy, crushing and unexpected trials of life that can bring grief, depression, anxiety, and exhaustion – things that are too heavy for someone to carry alone

Do you know someone like this?

What have you done to lighten their load? Could you lift part of the burden?

In **John 11:39-44** Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ Then they took away the stone ^[d]from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot

with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”

Jesus illustrates the principle of restoration, freeing the bound, trapped, and fallen

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead after he was dead 4 days – what a miracle!

The only problem was he was still bound by his grave clothes

Lazarus had a new lease on life, yet was still bound by the wrappings of his past. He was new in Christ and still needed unwrapped from his death clothes

Jesus turned His disciples and said “loose him and let him go” He was entrusting the completion of the miracle He began to those He had assigned

Jesus’ voice pierced the darkness and cried “Lazarus, come out!”

Our new life starts when Christ speaks into our darkness and the forgiveness of all sin is secured instantly through justification by our faith in Christ, there’s no other way

Being made alive in Christ is the first step, but walking in freedom requires community of faithful and mature believers!

Church, we are called to help one another strip away old habits, failures, and strongholds – grave clothes – of our former lives so we can freely function in our newfound freedom

Jesus told His disciples to loose Lazarus, unbind him. The church is meant to be a place of grace where people are untied from their past and released to live fully in Christ’s purpose for their lives!