

God Restores Us

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[Isaiah 40: 28-31] Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. 31 But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Life brings loss of health to humans, including Christians, through trials and tough experiences. Instead of joy and vitality, we sometimes suffer from worries and uncertainty; lethargy takes hold of the center of our soul, and we just feel unable to do anything meaningful in our spirit and soul. Causes of the loss of our spiritual well-being can be numerous. At times because of our lust, material craving, or envy toward successful worldly people, we pursue their bad examples and fall into Satan's traps and lose the purity of our soul.

Satan always seeks to deceive you. When you are not strong in faith, he will come near and persuade you to follow his advice instead of God's principles. That is how he caused Eve and Adam to fall in Eden. Satan aims to attack the leaders of Christian churches and denominations so that when a leading pastor or spiritual leader falls into his trap and this leader's fall is widely known, the entire church suffers shame and dishonor before God. That is exactly what happened to the churches of Sardis and Laodicea, as recorded in Revelation chapter 3. That is why all of us need spiritual restoration and renewal often. And our God is so very kind to renew us when we come to Him recognizing our need and seeking His restoring power in humility.

The first step toward our spiritual restoration is that we must admit that we are not well in our soul, spirit, and life. Just as we had to admit that we are sinners before God, repent, and declare that Jesus is our Savior to win God's mercy and grace, we must recognize and admit before others that we need help in our spiritual and natural life. With this admission, we must come before God and express our repentance.

King David was won over by his fleshly desire to have the wife of Uriah. Furthermore, he directed that Uriah be killed in fierce combat. What David did were sins that deserved to die according to the Mosaic law. God sent the prophet Nathan and showed how serious his sins were to David. If we could come to God with open admission and confession of our sinful state, God will be glad to restore us. That is the right order. David, however, had not confessed his sins before Nathan came to him. David, however, admitted immediately after Nathan's charge and sought forgiveness and mercy from God, having realized that the Spirit of God had left him because of his sins. David earnestly sought restoration of his spiritual health.

[Psalm 51:10-12] Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Let us note carefully what David sought from God in this prayerful psalm. He admitted that his heart became sinful and polluted because of his sins. And he sought God to 'create in him a clean heart.' He desired that God would drive out the carnal, sinful spirit that drove him to seek fleshly satiation and arrogant pompousness. David wanted God's Holy Spirit to return to his heart so that the joy of salvation might be full in his heart as before.

When we sin and do not repent, the Spirit of God cannot remain within us. Holy Spirit must leave us but will pray on our behalf for our soul's restoration and renewal. But remember, God is waiting for us to come to Him in humble repentance first before He could help us. God waited for David's repentance. When he showed a true spirit of repentance in humility, God readily set his sins aside and showed mercy for his sins that deserved death.

[2 Samuel 12:13] So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die."

Perhaps we do not commit such serious sins as David's. However, when we repeatedly fall into the fleshly desires, emulate the world's customs of moral decadence, and consciously follow the subtle suggestions of Satan, the cumulative effect will be a rapid loss of our spiritual purity and health. And we get to see that we have come far away from the center of God's favor. When we see where we are, we must first recognize our spiritual condition openly before God and renew the motive in our hearts, as the apostle Paul commanded.

[Romans 12:1-2] I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

When we have renewed our mind, our heart's motive, on honoring and glorifying the Almighty God of heaven and earth daily, the Holy Spirit will then come into our hearts and teach us what is the perfect and acceptable will of God. And it is our portion to live out what we learn from the Holy Spirit. Through this daily process, although our bodies grow old and frail, our spiritual life will be renewed daily, and our souls will receive the power and strength to fly the skies toward God as the eagles fly.

[2 Corinthians 4:16] Therefore, we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, the inward man is being renewed day by day.

Finally, what is the reason and motive for the renewal and restoration of our spiritual well-being and why is it so important? The reason is that we are all a part of the body of the church of Christ, and we are engaged to be married to our bridegroom, Jesus Christ, on the final day when He comes to claim His bride from the earth.

Every worthy bride, from the day of her engagement with her bridegroom, continually keeps herself pure and clean with a pure heart and motive so that she might be proven worthy to be wed with him when he comes to claim his bride. That is the noble, worthy cause that persuades us to keep our body, soul, and spirit pure and holy until He comes to take us from the earth. Until then, may all of us seek cleansing, restoration, and renewal of our entire being each day. Amen.

[Revelation 19: 7-8] Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

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