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The Restoration of Individual Believers **Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

The church is not an organization for healthy, spiritual people to come to, but a healing place that God has ordained for sick believers that have been wounded and crushed. Many times there are excuses given by the people that have been called into a work or ministry, they think they are unworthy or too old to be used. We tend to believe that our past is holding us back from doing anything the Lord would call us to do.

Paul, who had a bad past, had the revelation of grace and the gift of righteousness that we receive at the time of salvation totally separate from works. God forgets the past and the sins. Moses, David, and Saul had one thing in common, they were all murderers, but God used them because they repented. We will not be able to use our past for not fulfilling the will of God for our lives, when standing before God on the Day of Judgment.

There is always hope in Jesus Christ, God has a way of taking the past and turning it into a blessing through what happened in order to help others. Don't be one of those that people will look at and say, they should have been, could have been or ought have been. Be the one who did the will of God.

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me [the Anointed One, the Messiah] to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed [who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity]," To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound]." AMP

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." KJV

Jesus was telling the people this day, that the anointing of the Messiah was there. Jesus is telling us today that He is here to make us whole and we don't have to wait for heaven to receive from Him.

The religious leaders of that day were upset and did not like what He was saying. The religious leaders of today may be like this, not liking what they see in the unbelievers, but we must not let this influence us, all must be welcomed and accepted.

God wants to use everyone; we don't have to be perfect to be used by God. Isaiah tells us of an exchange that is given to us.

Isa 61:1-3 *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound, 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord [the year of His favor] and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 To grant [consolation and joy] to those who mourn in Zion—to give them an ornament (a garland or diadem) of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise instead of a heavy, burdened, and failing spirit—that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."* Amp

Isa 61-7 *"Instead of your [former] shame you shall have a twofold recompense; instead of dishonor and reproach [your people] shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double [what they had forfeited]; everlasting joy shall be theirs."* Amp

God is giving the people a double portion for their former shame. Jesus is giving the same to us for any shame that we may have in our lives. Jesus is not writing us off because we might have missed the mark in the past. He has a way now to bring us to wholeness because He wants to use us to raise up a standard.

Jer 1:5 *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations"* KJV

The father saw us before and set us apart for a purpose or plan, this brings hope to us, regardless of what has happened and His plans and purposes have never changed, it is still the same. Jesus did not come to judge us, but to give us life.

Rom 11:29 *"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."* KJV

Rom 11:29 *"For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.]"* Amp

Repentance means to turn around and go the other way. Change our direction.

God never takes back the gifts, never changes His mind about those he has called. God works beyond our limited mentality. Setbacks are opportunities for supernatural comebacks.

Many times people may miss the mark and be truly repentant forgiven but still feel unworthy. That is not God.

1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* KJV

Cleanse means to purify from the pollution of sin and guilt. The process is not done until guilt is washed away.

The religious people put limits on people, we must not have the religious spirit that tends to judge others. Jesus was a friend to the sinners of His day. Do the people of the world see Jesus in

us? If they don't, they probably don't like Jesus.

Luke 15:1-2 *"Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them."* KJV

In the Old Testament in Micah and Zephaniah, we are told that they were told God would give them fame for shame and that they would rise again from their shame.

There is nothing impossible with God, if you can only believe. You cannot listen to other people and their ideas, you must keep your focus on Jesus, because He is the one who ordained and called you, He is the one who will encourage and meet all your needs. His provision will be your provision.

Principles to start the turnarounds in our lives. Repentance must be there and is that repentance by man's standards or by God's standards? In order for us to turnaround, we must change our thinking. We must move into God's ways of thinking and into God's ways.

Moses knew the ways of God, but the children of Israel knew the acts of God. They never understood the ways of God.

Luke tells us that Satan had desired to sift Peter as wheat, but that Jesus had prayed for him.

Two examples of repentance are Peter and Judas. Both had walked in the presence of Jesus, and both missed the mark. Judas repented by man's standards and the result was he hung himself.

Matt 27:3-5 *"Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. 5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself."* KJV

2 Cor 7:10 *"For godly grief and the pain God is permitted to direct, produce a repentance that leads and contributes to salvation and deliverance from evil, and it never brings regret; but worldly grief (the hopeless sorrow that is characteristic of the pagan world) is deadly [breeding and ending in death]."* Amp

2 Cor 7:10 *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."* KJV

Judas could have repented by God's standard and moved into God's grace that would have come from Jesus.

Peter repented by God's standards, the result of his repentance was he went on to do great things with his life as told in Acts chapter 2 and many came to salvation.

Matt 26:74-75 *"Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. 75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly."* KJV

Jesus is no respecter of persons; He will fulfill the plans that He has for each of us. Pray that we may be able to redeem the time as it says in Ephesians 5.

Samson is an example of fulfilling his ministry at the end of his life by killing the Philistines even though he had missed the mark. He was able to redeem the time though it cost him his life.

Rom 8:31-34 *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."* KJV

Rom 8:31-34 *"What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?] 32 He who did not withhold or spare [even] His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely and graciously give us all [other] things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect [when it is] God Who justifies [that is, Who puts us in right relation to Himself? Who shall come forward and accuse or impeach those whom God has chosen? Will God, Who acquits us?] 34 Who is there to condemn [us]? Will Christ Jesus (the Messiah), Who died, or rather Who was raised from the dead, Who is at the right hand of God actually pleading as He intercedes for us?"* Amp

The challenge that we are facing in the future is for the revival that is coming to the church, we cannot allow ourselves to become "religious" and look down on those coming in. We must change our thinking, knowing that God will be doing a work in those just as He has done in our lives. Jesus came for all of us.