

March 12, 2017

The Restoration Of Lost Things
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Does God actually restore things that we have lost in our lives? If so, what is His plan for the restoration of those things that have been lost or stolen? Because of the new covenant that the believer has and because of what Jesus did for them giving them *the gift of righteousness, the Lords plan is to bless them, they will have favor and He will compass them about like a shield. The gift of righteousness is given to the believer because of the finished work of Jesus, it is not given because of our works. Our confession should be favor and increase will follow us wherever we go.

Psa 5:12 "For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou *compass him as with a shield." KJV

*compass means to encircle all around each of us

Rom 5:17 "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of *the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)" KJV

2 Cor 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." KJV

The words spoken in the following scriptures speaks of restoration to the body of Christ, not just a little but a double portion or an exceedingly large amount. His words are that He will restore all that has been taken from the people.

Joel 2: 21-26 "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. 22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. 23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. 24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. 25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. 26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed." KJV

Recently because of the fires that were experienced in our local area, we saw many people lose everything that they had worked their whole lives for, some lives were even lost and some of the people who were younger, were just getting started, total destruction, but according to the word of God, His plan for them is that if they know Him and His goodness, He will restore double portions of what has been destroyed, the curse being turned into a blessing. This is not punishment from God as some in the world would like to convey.

We have all experienced calamities or disappoints of different types during our lives, and as we begin to look at them and ask what is going on? What is God doing here? God hasn't changed, He is a God of restoration, He wants good for us not just for the believer or the backslider.

Deut 23:5 "Nevertheless the Lord thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the Lord thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the Lord thy God loved thee." KJV

The following scriptures tell of the experiences that Abraham and David had regarding incidents that happened to their families and all their possessions. Abraham who was exceedingly wealthy, took his men and went after those who had taken his nephew Lot and all that he had. Abraham and his men were able to rescue and return all the people and goods taken and gave a tithe to the priest, he got back more than the enemy had taken. When God restores, He restores to the measure that it is more than what was taken.

Gen 14:16 "And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people." KJV

David's family and all his men's families and their possessions had been taken by the Amalekites, God gave permission for him to go after the enemy and in doing so, defeated and recovered and rescued all. David returned with all the spoil that was taken, not only of his property, his men's property but all that the Amalekites had taken from others they had invaded. David recovered all and was able to bless and give to others with what he had received. God's plan was that David would recover all, just as it is His plan for us today. God is going to bless us with more than what we had in the beginning, our end is going to be more.

1 Sam 30:8, 18-20 "And David enquired at the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all." 18-20 "And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives. 19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all. 20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil." KJV

Abraham did not wait and get up in the morning, he set out immediately to take back what had been taken. David had 600 men who had lost their possessions and he could not wait until things were right, he went immediately after seeking the Lord as to what he should do. He shared with all those what had helped regardless of what their job was. God cannot bless us when we are being lazy and expect the favor of God. God blesses what we set our hand to making an effort, not just waiting Him to bless us. We may not be able to go to the mission field, but the support we send to others will allow God to bless us.

Making a comparison between the wealth of Abraham and Job, Job was probably the wealthier of the two. They lived in different parts of the country around the same time. The book of Job probably happened within a short period of time, around 10 to 12 months. He was a man who loved the Lord, and he had a large household with much livestock and flocks. He had 7 sons and 3 daughters. He became fearful that he would lose all that he had, for his children he did sacrifices afraid that they had done something wrong. His faith walk for the season of his life was wavering because of the fear. The devil came to God accusing Job of not really being the man who all thought he was, saying that if God would remove all his blessing, that Job would curse God, so God agreed to let the devil torment Job, causing Job to lose all that he had, killing his children and taking his health. Job didn't blame God at first, but when his friends came to see him, he began to listen to them and blame God for what was happening, putting himself in a place of questioning God and who he really was. The Lord spoke to Job and his friends, reminding them of how He was the creator of everything and they were the ones who were wrong. Job began to realize how wrong he was to have said the things he did to the Lord, he repented asking God to forgive him for listening to the rumors of others, promising never again to question God's goodness.

Job 7:11 "Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul." KJV

Saying what we want to say, griping about how bad things are.

Job 37:19 "Teach us what we shall say unto him; for we cannot order our speech by reason of darkness." KJV

We cannot talk about how bad things are, faith declares the end at the beginning, everything is going to turn out alright and God is going to restore because He is a God of abundance.

Isa 46:10 "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" KJV

Job 38:1-2 "Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, 2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" KJV

It is easy to speak words without knowledge, when we are only seeing the circumstances going on around

us. When we speak words without knowledge we only speak what the natural mind sees and what the natural mind thinks will happen, words spoken without knowledge are not words spoken in faith, it dampens the plans of God for us in the midst of adversity or calamity, His plan for our lives never changes. Many times we put more plans in what the enemy is doing, forgetting that he is the one who comes to steal, kill and destroy.

Job 42:1-6 "Then Job answered the Lord, and said, 2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. 3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. 4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. 5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." KJV

When Job got control of his mouth and the words that he was speaking, that is when the turnaround began to happen in his life. It is not known what would have happened if he had not begin to watch the words coming from his mouth. Job had to forgive those friends who had given him wrong advice. God planned a favorable ending for Job, more than what he anticipated. Job's confession was just the opposite of what he was experiencing. It is out of the abundance of the heart that our words should be spoken. The heart controls what comes out of the mouth.

Job 42:6 "Therefore I loathe [my words] and abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes." AMP

Job 42:6 "I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance." NLT

Job 42:6 "I'm sorry—forgive me. I'll never do that again, I promise! I'll never again live on crusts of hearsay, crumbs of rumor." MSG

His friends had been blaming God for all that was happening to him, but as he got control of his mouth, he began to realize that they were the ones who had been blinded by the enemy. Abraham and David had to go in strength with the word of God, while Job had to correct his mouth and his thinking about his situation.

Job 42:8, 11-13 "Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job." 11-13 "Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. 12 So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. 13 He had also seven sons and three daughters." KJV

God accepted Job and his repentance, the Lord then turned his captivity, restoration began as his relatives and friends begin to bring to Job livestock and money, gifts to replace the things that had been taken from him and Job received many times over what he had originally had, he also had more sons and daughters. Job lived another 140 years, God restored double to Job all that he had lost. In reading the entire book of Job we see the full story of what happened in the life of Job.

Deut 23:5 "Nevertheless the Lord thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the Lord thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the Lord thy God loved thee." KJV

Rumors are one of the worst things that many people in the church do without going to the word and seeing for themselves what the word says about their situations. Restoration is always greater than what is lost. We will go through a process of time before we begin to see the complete restoration starting to be manifested in our lives.

Our confession should be that "we have favor and increase following us wherever we go". We can believe this because God never leaves us or forsake us nor does He sleep.