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Restoration And Reconciliation  
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

God is a God of restoration, His plan just doesn't restore back to what was lost but it is always more than what was lost. He is a God that is more than enough, when He restores in your life. He said that He wants to restore the years (Joel chapter 2) that were lost that had been destroyed. We have learned about what happened with Job, how he lost everything, but when God restored back to him it was double. This is the God that we serve.

Can God restore a failure in our life or when we have missed the mark? Can someone that has turned their back on God and went another way can He bring them back to fellowship? Can He restore the giftings and talents that He gave them when they were still in their mother's womb? We all say "yes" to this and are going to see in the scriptures that this is possible.

Every setback is a setup for a supernatural comeback. Don't quit, keep fighting.

If the following scripture is true, then we will have to settle sometime in our mind, "is God really for us"? No one can successfully stand against us, no principalities, no power, no demonic spirit, keeping us bound or possessed.

Many of us were not taught that God was for us, we only knew Him as a judge waiting to punish us if we did something wrong. Many of the religious people today are still being taught this same thing, this is not true because God is looking for ways to bless us. He gave His best to us when He gave us Jesus. Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, standing in the gap between God and the believer making intercession for us.

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

Here are the facts, that if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. He is something that he wasn't before. We were all sinners but we were saved by grace, being made a new creation and in right standing with Jesus. We are not old sinners saved by grace, that is an improper statement that many religious people will say. When God made us new creations, He reconciled us to Him through Jesus, bringing us into harmony with Himself. He has given to us the ministry of reconciliation, all who are born again have that ministry. God is not keeping track of our sins because He laid them on Jesus. The word of reconciliation is the message that we as believers take to the world, we become ambassadors for Christ.

2 Cor 5:17-21 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 \*To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 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

v. 18 reconcil means to bring into harmony, restore friendly relationships, to cause people, God and man to

coexist in harmony and peace.

v. 19 \* to wit means to know

v. 20 ambassador is one from another country that is sent to establish the will of that country with the country that they have been sent to, we are ambassadors for Christ to establish His will in the world wherever we are at

v. 21 we are made not developed or grown into the righteousness of God

It is very important that we as believers understand the following scripture because of the reconciling and restoring. The world or the religious people are looking at the unsaved, judging them. We should be very careful about judging the unsaved, the sins that we think are so bad are not what is sending them to hell, the only sin that will do that, is they refuse to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. God has not held our sins against us, but has cancelled them and brought us to reconciliation and restoration to favor with Him. Even though we are new creations on the inside, our mind has to be renewed in order for us to fully understand what He has provided for us. Let us come into harmony with God, not living as the world lives.

2 Cor 15:19 *"It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor)." AMP*

Paul said that he would be praying for the children in Galatia until Christ be formed in them.

Gal 4:19 "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you," KJV

When we became born again because of Jesus Christ, we were made righteous, having the ability to go boldly before Him without the sense of sin, inferiority or guilt or failure, because of the free gift of righteousness given to 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

This is story of the prodigal son in the following verses. These sons belonged to the same family, but each had a different outlook on life. It is suggested that the entire account needs to be read. There are some points regarding the prodigal son, his attitude in coming home and how his family responded to his decision.

Luke 15:11-19 "And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants." KJV

1) The family did not change their way of life and go live like the son had, living in the slop of the pigs, expecting to win him back, they didn't "dumb" down the gospel, they kept their standards.

Many of the churches now days are going through challenging times. They are giving into the worlds way of doing things, trying to win the unsaved by "dumbing down" the gospel. When these things happen there is much bad that is left behind, pregnancies, drug use, people leaving the church. The church is not be an entertainment center, we cannot compete with the devil, he is

a master at doing those sorts of things, people are being deceived thinking this is the way to reach the unsaved, it won't work.

The church is like a hospital, people needing help, the religious people don't want to get their hands dirty, the worldly attitude is pass them by, cut them off and forget them. That is not what Jesus did, Jesus was always willing to help.

2) The son finally came to himself, he didn't blame his parents or his brother or that he had been abused and had been raised wrong. He didn't come home with an argumentative spirit or trying to negotiate. He took the attitude that the reason that things were bad, is because he made a bad choice and lived like he wanted to. It took him living with the pigs in their slop to realize that he was living far below where he could be and that he could go back and live as one of his father's servants, there was so much to be offered and he would be so much better off. He got up and went home, leaving all the bad behind.

Many times believers find themselves trying to live in the world and when bad things begin to happen to them, they begin blaming everything that is happening to them on their families, the circumstances they've gone through or abuse that they have received from others, but Jesus has provided the way for all the bad stuff to be taken care of, if a right choice is made and lives are turned around. Quit using all these excuses and change our lives. There is no way we can negotiate with God if we are going to live right; it is either His way or no way. True restoration means \*true repentance.

\*Mark 6:12 "So they went out and preached that men should repent [that they should change their minds for the better and heartily amend their ways, with abhorrence of their past sins]." AMP

3) The father's attitude with his son was, he saw him coming and runs to meet him, welcoming him, he didn't say anything to him about what he had put the family through, the disgrace that was brought to the family name and that he didn't know how they would recover from what the son had caused. Instead, the father told him that he was welcome and his friends, but we do have a set of standards and you will have to abide by what our standards are, we will not compromise, if you can't live with our standards, you will have to go back. Only rebellious people would like to revamp the principles that are in the word of God. True repentance people are just glad to be back into Fathers house and live His way.

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

Many people in the church do not realize that God has placed gifts and callings on people when they were still in their mother's womb. Even though they never receive Jesus, those gifts still work in them, God gave them, He is not going to change His mind. These gifts will remain on individuals until they make the change to heaven. We all have the gift of reconciliation, but we don't change our standards in order to try and rescue someone living in the world.