

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

God Restores

SERIES

DATE

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KEY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 54

SYNOPSIS

God is a God of restoration. He makes all things new and even makes up for the lost years.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ God Restores

☞ Psalms 23:1-3

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 **he restores my soul.**

☞ Acts 3:21

He must remain in heaven until the time comes for **God to restore everything**, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

God is a God of restoration.

We all sometimes go through what could be termed the 'lean years.' It's a period where it looks like nothing much is happening and sometimes as if nothing at all is happening! We sometimes call them the 'lost years.' However, if we walk close to God during those trying times, He is still in the business of restoring disappointed and damaged periods of our lives and He can bring restoration to our 'lost years'! The 'lost years' need never be 'wasted years,' if we allow God's purposes to be accomplished in us.

Last week we talked about the need for a Revival Again from Psalm 85. We need a restoration of God's peace, glory and goodness in our land. Revive us again; Restore us again. He did it before, he will do it again.

Here's the good news, God is a God of restoration and He can restore all that seems displaced, disrupted and destroyed during the 'lost years.'

In our lives, we work hard and sometimes pray for years to maybe win a loved one over, to earn a degree, to get an estranged spouse or child back, to have the blessing of a newborn, to get a promotion and to raise healthy, God-fearing children. But we never consider that time as wasted. Similarly, God will make the waiting period during the 'lost years' a blessed experience, as He brings restoration into our lives.

☞ Let me highlight parts of **Isaiah 54**. Verse 3 – you will spread out to the right and to the left. Verse 4 – you will forget the shame of your youth. Verse 5 – the Holy One is your Redeemer. Verse 6 – the Lord will call you back. Verse 8 – I will have compassion on you, says the Lord. Verse 11 – I will build you. Verse 13 – great will be your children's peace. Verse 14 – you will have nothing to fear. Verse 17 – no weapon forged against you will prevail. Also, verse 17 - This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord.

God promises restoration and more to his people.

☞ 1. GOD'S RESTORATION WILL RENEW YOUR JOY



When we struggle with difficult periods in life (the lost years), it is often a time of sadness, tears and questions. However, Isaiah 54 :1 says “Sing, O barren woman, ...burst into song, shout for joy...”

It may have been a while since you’ve actually sang for joy; since you’ve genuinely felt happy and at peace. We all know you can have peace in any situation. And, we all know that God is always working for our good, but it is something special when we experience the “here and now” goodness of God.

When God's restoration comes in, He will renew your joy, as well as the song that may have been stifled in your life. Joel 2, which also speaks of restoration, says in verse 23 “Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, ...He sends you abundant showers.” **Psalm 126:5** says, **“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.”**

Has the joy been lost in your life? Have you been struggling to find a new song? Look to God for restoration and He will renew your joy and restore a song in your heart. The 'lost years' could well be part of God's discipling process in your life and He will eventually make it work out for good.

*The joy of the Lord is my strength (3x) oh, the joy of the Lord is my strength
If you want joy you can clap for it (3x) oh, the joy of the Lord is my strength
It fills my mouth with laughter ah, ha, ha, ha, ha, (3x) oh, the joy of the Lord is my strength*

Let’s allow God to renew our joy!

☞2. GOD'S RESTORATION WILL RAISE YOUR INFLUENCE

Verse 2-3 carry the words 'enlarge, stretch, wide, do not hold back, lengthen and strengthen'. All these words carry a connotation of large expansion, which is what God's restoration will accomplish.

Are you willing to trust God for such expansion? To spread out under His anointing? To see your faith grow stronger than ever before? Can you enlarge your vision this year? **Amos 9:13** says, **“The days are coming”, declares the Lord, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman** and the planter by the one treading grapes.” That’s harvesting at its best!

The life of Joseph is a classic example of how God can restore the 'lost years,' and bring unprecedented influence into a person’s life. What seemed like a lot of 'lost years' eventually brought about the fulfillment of all his dreams. Under God’s inspiration, Joseph had dreamt about being a person of great influence. But it did not happen right away. In fact, he went through a lot of difficulties first. His brothers hated him and sold him into slavery. But he proved himself to his master and became a trusted servant. However, he had another setback when he was falsely accused of sexual assault and was sent to prison. Even in prison he proved himself trustworthy and helped a fellow cellmate be freed. But that man forgot all about Joseph for two full years. But when Pharaoh was in need, Joseph’s opportunity finally arrived and he was



promoted to the highest position in Egypt next to Pharaoh. So, he was restored and then some. Eventually, when God's restoration was fully realized, Joseph's influence extended not only to the Egyptian Empire, but to most of the known world. (Genesis 41:57)

Can you believe God for greater influence this year?

☞ 3. GOD'S RESTORATION WILL REMOVE YOUR SHAME

Are you carrying any shame from your youth? Is it about failure as a parent or a spouse? Does the past show many times you felt humiliated? Listen to what God says in verse 4. "Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood." Our God has the amazing ability to restore us from our shame and failures!

Joel 2:26 says, "...you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed." For added emphasis, the Lord reiterates the same thought in the next verse too.

☞ Isaiah 61:7

Instead of their shame my people will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance; and so they will inherit a double portion in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs.

When Jesus suffered on the cross, He took all our shame upon Him and paid the price for all our sin and failures. If you are battling with shame and humiliation and have never invited Jesus into your life, why not take that step now? He can bring forgiveness and wonderful restoration into your life! You don't have to live in constant shame, guilt, and regret. You can be set free.

☞ 4. GOD'S RESTORATION REBUKES THE ENEMY

Right now, it may look like those opposing you have overcome you. It may look like the enemy has won the battle. For some, it may seem like the wagging tongues have done irreversible damage. A wise man said, "Plastic surgeons can do almost anything with a person's nose today, except keep it out of other peoples' business!"

But look at what Isaiah says in verses 11 and 12... "I will build you, ...your foundations ...your battlements ...your gates ...and all your walls." Verse 14 says, "...you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you." Verse 15 says, "Whoever attacks you will surrender to you." And, note what verse 17 says. "No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you."

When God restores, the enemy is pushed back and you are delivered. Psalm 18:48 says, "...You hold me safe beyond the reach of my enemies ..." NLT



☞ **Psalms 60:12**

With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies.

God, himself fights for us and overcomes the enemy in our lives.

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's restoration will bring the victory! What's the nature of the enemy's attack on you? How has he been holding you down? The power of our Lord is greater than anything that can come against us! When God restores, he defeats the enemy on our behalf.

Let's not get weary of waiting. God will make it worth your wait! Prepare yourself for the restoration that God is bringing. He will restore all that has been lost during what seems like the 'lost years' and bring in the "autumn and spring rains" (Joel 2:23).

God says, "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten" (Joel 2:25). That's more than just getting back on track. That's making up for lost time. God's restoration is more. God's restoration repays what has been stolen, destroyed, and lost. God is a God of restoration.

God's restoration will...

- 1) Renew your joy
- 2) Raise your influence
- 3) Remove your shame
- 4) Rebuke the enemy

Can you trust Him for this? God will restore!

☞ **Revelation 21:5**

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."