

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE Return to Restore

SERIES Godly Reset

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KEY SCRIPTURE Hosea 6:1-3

SYNOPSIS When we repent and return to the Lord he responds with revival and restoration.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ **Return to Restore**

Hosea 6:1-3

"Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces; now he will heal us. He has injured us; now he will bandage our wounds. 2 In just a short time he will restore us, so that we may live in his presence. 3 Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." NLT

Come – together, we return. Revival can start in one person, but together we can make much more of an impact.

☞ **We Return**

Return – go back to the Lord.

☞ **Revelation 2:4-5**

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! **Repent and do the things you did at first.**

In fact, in Revelation 2 and 3 as Jesus is speaking to the 7 churches, he says “repent” to 5. And, he says, “hear the Spirit” to all 7. He’s calling us back.

He’s the father of the prodigal, waiting for our return. Returning is the most important aspect of repentance. It’s more than just being sorry for being away from God. It’s returning to him.

--Billy Graham... If your sorrow is because of certain consequences that have come on your family because of your sin, this is remorse, not true repentance. If, on the other hand, you are grieved because you also sinned against God and his holy laws, then you are on the right road.

Repentance is to be sorry enough to quit.

*--C. S. Lewis... Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement; he is a rebel who must lay down his arms ... This process of surrender - this movement full speed astern - is what Christians call repentance. Now repentance is no fun at all. It is something much harder than merely eating humble pie. It means unlearning all the self-conceit and self-will that we have been training ourselves into for thousands of years. It means killing part of yourself, undergoing a kind of death. And, Lance Wallnau adds that, for the believer, there is a resurrection after that death. So, we **die to our own sinful nature, but then rise again a new creation** in Christ.*

--DL Moody... Man is born with his face turned away from God. When he truly repents, he is turned right round toward God; he leaves his old life.

Repent and do what you used to do!



☞ **Know the Lord** – to know by observing and reflecting; to know by experiencing. This kind of knowing is more than just knowing about something or someone, this knowing has actual involvement with the object being known.

☞ **Psalm 46:10**

Be still, and know that I am God

“Shut up and listen.” Be still – let go; withdraw; be quiet

Let go – take a break from trying to fix everything and just listen to God. Jesus withdrew to

☞ lonely places – this reminds us that **alone** time is good for focusing on God. God speaks in a

☞ still small voice, so we need to **be quiet** – God whispers; so, shut out all other noise.

****how do you go about doing this?***

It is significant how all the greatly inspired men were trained in the school of silence. Moses was hidden away forty years in the loneliness of sheep pastures, and again forty days on Mt. Sinai, and when he came down his face shone. Ezekiel, went by the way of the river alone. Isaiah saw the King in His beauty when no one was with him. Daniel was accustomed to go into the quiet of his chamber three times a day. Paul spent three lonely years in Arabia. John went to Patmos before he could write the Book of Revelation. It seems they needed that alone time with God before they could do what he called them to do. Be still.

☞ Make it a priority to spend time with God and simply **listen**.

Psalms 27:4

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

☞ **Press on** – to pursue; to follow. This is most often used as a military term – to pursue or hunt your enemy, i.e. to keep looking until he is found. It means to pursue until caught.

☞ **Jeremiah 29:13**

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

We need to press on and pursue the Lord with all our energy. There are better days ahead! There is a heavenly prize. All our efforts need to be moving in that direction. Have the goal in mind. In this life, we want to be more like Jesus as we look forward to eternity in heaven. If you want to win the race, you can't lollygag around; you have to go for it. And remember, this is a marathon, not a sprint.

☞ **Hebrews 12:1**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, **let us throw off everything that hinders** and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.



Press on. Don't give up. Repent; Redo; Rest; Restart daily.

☞ He Restores

☞ **He will heal** – He gives grace and forgives. To heal is to **restore to normal**. Last week: revival is simply believers getting back to normal; “Naturally supernatural.”

My scars; Jake's broken leg – things can be repaired, made whole

Nature shouts of this beginning-again-God, this God who can make all our failures regenerative, the one who is God of risings again, who never tires of fresh starts in persons or in culture. God is a God of starting over, of genesis and re-gensis.

2 Chronicles 7:14

... then will I heal their land.

What does healthy land look like?

- ☞ Health = free from disease; **flourishing**
- ☞ Well-watered - **full of Holy Spirit**
- ☞ Fruit-bearing – **growing** individually; gaining new disciples
- ☞ Beautiful – **Godly character**

☞ **He will bandage** – to wrap firmly; to gird up; to **surround**; to govern.

☞ God with us. v. 2 “live in **his presence**.” Lyrics – “Surrounded by your glory”

☞ **He will restore** – **revive**; give life to; to nourish; to **prosper**.

Psalms 103:2-5

2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

☞ **He will respond** – to **raise up**; to prepare for activity

This restoration; this revival; this raising up is hard for us to really grasp. We've been living in a weakened state for so long, we don't realize what God really intends for us. The truth is, the church is capable of much more than we currently see and experience... It's like Superman with amnesia – he forgot what abilities he had. Or like a piano out of tune – it can play some music, but imagine how much better it would sound if tuned up. In fact, the world hears us playing, but isn't all that impressed because we're out of tune. And, we've grown so accustomed to it being out of tune, that we don't know any better ourselves. We need to see and hear what it's supposed to be like.



Picture of revival; what is possible...

The Land Before Time – The great valley seemed like a myth, but it was a reality. Same with revival! Little Foot had never seen the great valley, but his heart knew it existed. His friends thought it was too hard; that they would never find it, but kept going on. When they found it, it was everything they dreamed it would be.

☞ The **picture of restoration** and revival began with the New Testament church...

☞ **Acts 2:1-4**

2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on ☞ each of them. 4 All of them were **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:41

☞ ...about three thousand were **added to their number** that day.

Acts 2:43

☞ Everyone was filled with **awe**, & many **wonders & miraculous signs** were done by the apostles.

Acts 5:13

☞ they were **highly regarded** by the people.

Acts 5:15-16

people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. 16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were ☞ **healed**.

These are the kinds of things that will happen as we return to God and he restores!

There's a Godly Reset going on:

NIV says "after two days he will revive and on the third day he will restore." I think we are at the end of the second day. He is reviving his people and on the third day there will be complete restoration. The third day is significant in scripture.

- In Genesis 22, when Abraham was preparing to sacrifice Isaac at God's command, God supplied a ram as a substitute... on the third day.
- In Exodus 19, on the third day the Lord came down to Mt. Sinai in sight of the people.
- Jonah was delivered from the belly of the fish... on the third day.



- Jonah preached for three days in Nineveh, then the people repented, and God relented.
- In Luke 2, Jesus' parents searched for him and found him in the temple... on the third day.
- The wedding in Cana was on the third day and Jesus turned water into wine.
- Saul, blinded by an encounter with the Lord, had his sight returned... on the third day.
- And, of course, Jesus was raised to life again... on the third day.

Just imagine with me for a moment. The bible says that with the Lord, a day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years are as a day. From God's perspective, then, the church is near the end of its second day. Jesus was crucified and raised again in roughly the year 30AD, and then the church was started. Following God's timescale then, day one was completed in the year 1030, and day two will be completed in 2030, and then day three begins. Now, I don't claim to be prophesying, but I do think the timing is interesting. "After two days he will revive and on the third day he will restore."

I've been saying, as well as many others, that God is reviving and restoring his people. While the world is tending toward worse and worse degradation, God's people are being renewed. After two days, he will revive. That's where we are right now in history. On the third day he will restore. Jesus is coming soon.

☞ We need to **Return to the Lord** so that we may **be Restored**.