

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE Revive Us Again

SERIES Godly Reset

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KEY SCRIPTURE Psalm 85:1-13

SYNOPSIS God has restored his people before. He can do it again.

HIGHLIGHTS Remember the Hymn: Revive Us Again



☞ Revive us Again

Revive us again; Fill each heart with Thy love; May each soul be rekindled with fire from above. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Hallelujah! Amen. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Revive us again.

Psalms 85

You showed favor to your land, O Lord; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins 3 You set aside all your wrath and turned from ☞ your fierce anger. 4 **Restore us again, O God our Savior**, and put away your displeasure toward us. 5 Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all ☞ generations? 6 Will you not **revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?** 7 Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. 8 I will **listen** to what God the Lord will say; he **promises peace** to his people, his saints — but let them **not return to folly**. 9 Surely his salvation is near those who **fear him**, that his **glory may dwell** in our land. 10 Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. 12 The Lord will indeed **give what ☞ is good**, and our **land will yield its harvest**. 13 **Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.**

v. 4 Restore us again; v. 6 Revive us again

☞ Restore to what? In verse 8 God promises **peace** to his people. **Restoration of Peace.**

Peace = shalom; health, prosperity, safety, and completeness. Everybody longs for peace. We want to be healthy and prosperous. We want our families to be safe. God also wants this for his people. In the scriptures, peace is often linked with another quality that helps us understand what true peace means.

- ☞ In Psalm 29:11 peace goes together with **strength**.
- ☞ In Isaiah 57:19 peace is linked with **healing**.
- ☞ In Zechariah 9:10 peace includes the **rulership** of the Lord.
- ☞ In John 14:27 peace **overcomes worry and fear**.
- ☞ In 2 Thessalonians 3:16 peace is simply that **God is with us**.

☞ In verse 9 it speaks of his **glory (presence)** dwelling in the land. **Restoration of Presence.**

Glory = kabod; weightiness, honor, his positive reputation, his imposing presence.

I think of God's glory as an overwhelming sense of his presence. When Solomon dedicated the temple the glory of God was so strong it appeared as a cloud in the temple and the priests couldn't even perform their normal duties. The glory of God is his presence so powerfully with



us that we won't just be doing business as usual. It won't take someone in charge to tell you ☞ that God is in the house. You will know it without a doubt all by yourself. **His glory** in this fashion will have an effect upon you. Some will weep, some will shout for joy, all will praise ☞ and worship wholeheartedly. Some will experience **healing** just by being here. Others will be **renewed in their strength**; and yet others will **overcome** all kinds of **worry, anxiety and fear** simply because God is so powerfully in the house.

☞ In verse 12 the Lord will give what is **good**. **Restoration of Privilege**

Good = tob; pleasant, delightful, what is best.

☞ Psalm 84 speaks of God's goodness and likens it to his **favor** and **honor**.

James 1:17 reminds us that every good and perfect gift is from God.

☞ Ephesians 1:3 speaks of his **spiritual blessings**.

When the bible talks about God's blessings it isn't just about prosperity or possessions. While that may be part of his blessings, there is more to it. According to Genesis 12:2-3, his blessing on you means that others around you will be positively affected just by knowing you. In 1

☞ Chronicles 4:10 Jabez linked God's blessing with enlarged territory or **influence** as well as **freedom from harm**. Isaiah 61:9 says that God's blessing can make people famous, at least in ☞ the sense of **others will recognize that God is with you**.

These same kinds of things are mentioned in verses 1-2 as something God has done before.

He showed Favor – God was pleased and delighted in his people. This kind of favor from God also includes the concept of paying off debt. True to form, God pays the debt that we owe so that we can be acceptable in his presence. Then he enjoys being with us. That's his favor. He's done it before; he will do it again.

--Mark Batterson... The favor of God is what God can do for you that you cannot do for yourself. It's His favor that opens the door of opportunity. It's His favor that turns opposition into support. It's His favor that can help you land the promotion, make the list, or seal the deal.

He restored Fortune – some translations say, "he brought back the captivity of Jacob." This restoration is that of prisoners of war being set free by their liberators. It also includes a return of the wealth that the enemy had stolen. God restores his people; and what the enemy has stolen, God returns. What the enemy has held captive, God sets free. He did it before; he will do it again.

Most of us have experienced the loss of something we consider precious to us, whether it's a relationship, health, a job or something else that we hold dear. Not only can God wipe away our past, but he can restore and replace what has been destroyed or lost. Do you believe that?



He Forgave his people – Literally, this means that he lifted or carried the sins of the people. So, God takes away the iniquity and sins of us all. Those things in our lives that have been twisted and distorted; the guilt that we have experienced and the punishment that's due – these have all been taken away by God. Those times that we've fallen short and missed the mark are forgiven and carried away by God. He did it before; he will do it again.

A pastor had sinned very badly and even though he had confessed his sin, he never felt forgiven. A lady in his church was always saying, "The Lord said to me..." It wasn't that he didn't believe her, because she was usually right, but she really irked him. One day he said, "If God is speaking to you, ask Him to tell you what it was I did years ago." A few days later, she came back to him. "Well?" he demanded. "Did you ask Him?" "Yes," she replied. "And what did He say?" asked the minister. "He said He doesn't remember."

☞ **The Result of Praise (rejoicing)** (v.6). When God does this kind of restoration there will be extreme happiness. There will be visible expressions of joy coming from God's people. You won't be able to fully contain yourself.

☞ You may sense such relief in his favor and acceptance, that you will cry **tears of joy**. You may
☞ experience such freedom and restoration in the Lord that you'll have to **shout**. Some might
☞ even need to **jump**. For sure, when you experience the sweet release of God's forgiveness
☞ you'll be moved to **express gratitude**.
☞ You might not be able to stop **singing**. For some, this kind of relief may make you feel so light
☞ on your feet that you'll have to **dance** before the Lord. When God restores his people there is rejoicing! He did it before; he will do it again.

God wants to revive his people. But, is there a part for us to play in this restoration?

☞ Yes: **The Responsibility his People**

☞ **Be Receptive**

v. 8 Listen – pay attention; hear, understand and obey. This is a deliberate choice to **tune in to God** and understand what he is saying. We need to be so tuned into God, that we go, do and say whatever he directs. This kind of listening also means to be discerning. So, here we have it again... we need to **know the word of God** so well, that we are not sidetracked and misled by deception. Listen to the Lord!

--Alfred Brendel... *The word "listen" contains the same letters as "silent".*

--Mark Roberts... *In the 1970s, the brokerage firm of E.F. Hutton ran an unforgettable series of TV commercials. The set up was always similar. Two people in a crowded public place are talking about financial matters. One shares the wisdom of some broker. The other person responds, "Well, my broker is E.F. Hutton, and E.F. Hutton says..." At that moment, the*



surrounding crowd is immediately quiet. Everyone leans forward eagerly to hear what E. F. Hutton says. The voiceover explains, "When E.F. Hutton talks, people listen." If this is true, then surely, we ought to pay close attention to what God says. Like those eavesdroppers in the E.F. Hutton commercials, we should quiet down enough to pay attention to what God says.

☞ **Be Resolute**

v. 8 Don't return to folly – turn back; retreat; backslide. Don't be foolish by doing the junk that led you away from the Lord. We have talked a lot recently about repentance – turning back to God. Well, once you're going the right direction, don't turn again. **Stay on track**; be determined to go after God. **Don't look back!** Luke 17:32 says, "Remember Lot's wife!"

☞ **Be Reverent**

v. 9 **Fear God** – reverence; honor. This fear of the Lord is more than just being polite and saying the right things. It means to genuinely stand in awe of him; to honor him in word and in actions.

--*Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament...* The "God-fearer" will implement his fear in ☞ practical righteousness or piety. Job, as a God fearer, **avoids evil** (Job 1:1). In Psalms 128:1 the "fearer" of the Lord **walks in his ways**. The fearers of the Lord may be those whose particular piety is evidenced by a **response to God's message**. The "fearer" of God is contrasted with the wicked (Ecclesiastes 8:13).

☞ Ultimately, **Righteousness Prepares the way** (v. 13). **Biblical ethics** and **moral standards** clear the way for this kind of visitation from God. Do what is just and right and true. Walk the straight and narrow path of the Lord.

☞ The righteousness referred to here also includes **right behavior toward other** people. Show **mercy** to others. Be **generous** to others. **Help** others in need. Always do the right thing. Always do the biblical thing.

God did it before. He will do it again. He will restore his people with favor and fortune and forgiveness. There will be great rejoicing as we experience the overwhelming sense of God's presence and glory. Let's prepare the way with righteous living. Let's be receptive and listen to the Lord. Let's resolve to keep moving forward with God. And, let's always show reverence and respect to our Lord and Savior.

To be restored is to be brought back to the right place. Think of a runaway teenager returning to the loving home of his family. He becomes restored. To be restored is to be brought back to the right condition. Think of a classic car someone is lovingly fixing up, so it's like new again. It becomes restored.



Here's the great news: God is a God of restoration. God promises to restore us. "I will restore them because of my compassion" (Zechariah 10:6) and "I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore" (Isaiah 57:18).

*God can restore you. He can take what's wrong in your life and make it right.
God can restore the world. He can take what's wrong in the world and make it right.
God's promise is even better. If God "just" promised to restore us, it would mean that he could help us make our lives what they always should have been. That's great, but there's still grief from everything we lost. Check out what God says in Joel 2:25, "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten" (N.K.J.). Locusts had invaded and ruined years of crops. The fields of the farmers were in seeming disrepair. God promises not only to return the land to its original condition but also to renew what got lost during the wasted years.*

"Restore us again (v.4)," "revive us again (v.6)" oh God, our Savior. He did it before. He will do it again.

🎥 Video: Revive us Again

We praise Thee, O God!
For the Son of Thy love,
For Jesus Who died,
And is now gone above.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Thine the glory.
Hallelujah! Amen.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory.
Revive us again.

We praise Thee, O God!
For Thy Spirit of light,
Who has shown us our Savior,
And scattered our night.

All glory and praise
To the Lamb that was slain
Who has borne all our sins
And has cleansed every stain

Revive us again;
Fill each heart with Thy love;
May each soul be rekindled
With fire from above.