

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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**SERMON TITLE**

**God's Restoration Plan**

**SERIES**

**DATE**

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**KEY SCRIPTURE**

**Psalm 85**

**SYNOPSIS**

God is in the business of restoration and revival.

**HIGHLIGHTS**



## ☞ Restoration

*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**      God is in the business of restoration, but what does that restoration actually look like? Sometimes, because of sin or neglect, people have been in the junk heap for so long, they don't even know what a restoration might be like.

☞ In **verse 8** God promises **peace** to his people. **Restoration of God's 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**.

When we ask for revival and restoration, we are asking for his peace, strength, healing and deliverance. And more...

☞ In **verse 9** it speaks of his **glory** dwelling in the land. **Restoration of God's 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 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. When we ask for restoration, we are asking for a fresh sense of his overwhelming presence.

Then, in **verse 12** ...the Lord will give what is **good**. Good = tob; pleasant, delightful, what is best.

☞ **Restoration of God's Blessing.**

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

**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 that **others will recognize that God is with you**.

These same kinds of things are mentioned here 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 for sin 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. Not only can God wipe away our past, but he can restore and replace what has been destroyed or lost.

☞ **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.

☞ **These result in a Restoration of rejoicing (v.6)**. When God does this kind of restoration with peace, presence and blessing, there will be extreme happiness, which is expressed in some visible manner. This is more than just contentment or a state of wellbeing. This is the kind of joy that bursts out, like at a wedding feast, a party, or in a great victory. There will be visible expressions of joy coming from God's people. You won't be able to fully contain yourself. In the bible, this rejoicing is often accompanied by a physical reaction...

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 and restore his people. But, is there a part for us to play in this restoration? Yes.

☞ **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!

*There's a story of a Native American and his friend who were in downtown New York City, walking near Times Square in Manhattan. It was during the noon lunch hour and the streets were filled with people. Cars were honking their horns, taxicabs were squealing around corners, sirens were wailing, and the sounds of the city were almost deafening. Suddenly, the Native American said, "I hear a cricket." His friend said, "What? You must be crazy. You couldn't possibly hear a cricket in all of this noise!" "No, I'm sure of it," "I heard a cricket." "That's crazy," said the friend. The Native American listened carefully for a moment, and then walked across the street to a big cement planter where some shrubs were growing. He looked into the bushes, beneath the branches, and sure enough, he located a small cricket. His friend was utterly amazed. "That's incredible," "You must have super-human ears!" "No," "My ears are no different from yours. It all depends on what you're listening for." "But that can't be!" said the friend. "I could never hear a cricket in this noise." "Yes, it's true," came the reply. "It depends on what is really important to you. Here, let me show you." He reached into his pocket, pulled out a few coins, and discreetly dropped them on the sidewalk. And then, with the noise of the crowded street still blaring in their ears, they noticed every head within twenty feet turn and look to see if the money that tinkled on the pavement was theirs. "See what I mean?" "It all depends on what's important to you."*

☞ **Be Resolute v. 8 Don't return to folly** – don't turn back; retreat; backslide. Don't be foolish by doing the junk that led you away from the Lord. Once you're going the right direction, don't turn again. **Stay on track**; be determined to go after God. **Don't look back!**

☞ **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.

*--Got Questions... Instead of the kind of reverence we see demonstrated throughout the Bible, modern Christianity has adopted a "Jesus-is-my-buddy" attitude that grossly downplays the holiness, power, and righteous wrath of the Sovereign Creator. Reverence does not refer to God as "The Big Guy in the Sky" or "The Man Upstairs." Once we truly know who God is, we reverence Him in our hearts. Even the thief on the cross, after he realized who Jesus was, rebuked the other thief for his irreverence: "Don't you fear God?" he said to the other thief; then he turned to Jesus and honored Him as the King.*



☞ **Be Righteous.** 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.

This is our part to play in God's restoration. Be receptive to God's voice, and resolute in your decision to follow the Lord. Be reverent toward God and be righteous in your actions. Then, God does the restoration.

**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.** 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.

This desire to be restored is a theme all throughout the Bible. **Ps. 6:3...** "How long, O Lord until you restore me?" **Ps. 51:12...** "Restore to me the joy of your salvation." **Ps. 119:107...** "restore my life again as you promised." **Lam.5:21...** "Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to you again!"

☞ Here's the great news: **God is a God of restoration!**

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 than a simple restoration. Check out what God says in **Joel 2:25**, "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten." (NKJV) Locusts had invaded and ruined years of crops. The fields of the farmers were in disrepair. God promises not only to return the land to its original condition but also to restore what got lost during the wasted years. That's God's restoration plan!

☞ **(click to start music)** Do you need a personal restoration or revival? Have you lost your peace? Does it seem like God's presence is hidden from you? The blessings have been long dried up? Has the enemy stolen your joy? God is in the business of restoration!