

Restoration – Restructuring

When our lives had been broken and God restores us to what He wants to be there is a restructuring in our lives and church that is necessary in order to live out the life that He restored us for and to fulfill His purposes. If we go back to life as it was in brokenness then there would be no purpose in restoration.

It would be like a prisoner being set free and then choosing to go back to prison. A freed prisoner now needs to learn how to restructure his life in freedom which will be vastly different to life in prison.

There needs to be a restructuring of our thinking – paradigm shift.

A restructuring of our emotions – to submit them to the control of the Holy Spirit

A physical restructuring – move out of a sinful lifestyle and environment to a godly lifestyle and environment. A woman who has lost her husband needs to restructure her life to learn to practically live without him, etc.

Nehemiah 13: 1 – 31

1) Identify areas that need to be restructured

- Physical
 - A practical restructuring of our routine and daily schedules after losing a loved one
 - A physical restructuring of our lives if losing a limb or limbs in an accident.
- Mental
 - We have to think about the changes that have taken place in your life and have a paradigm shift to accommodate the changes.
 - The person who has lost a limb has to change his/her mental perspective on the way life will be.
- Emotional
 - Trauma always leaves people emotionally scarred and we have to identify how we feel about life, people who hurt us, people who love us.
 - Where are we focusing our emotions?
- Spiritual
 - Is it moral or practical?
 - 6 moral issues that Nehemiah had to deal with and bring about a moral and physical restructuring in Israel:
 - No Ammonite or Moabite should be admitted into the assembly of God (1 – 3)
 - Tobiah lived in a room in the temple courts (4 – 9)
 - Portions that were to be given to Levites were not given to them (10 – 14)
 - Working on the Sabbath (15 – 22)
 - Intermarriage with foreign women (23 – 27)
 - Desecration of the priestly office (28 – 31)
 - Are there moral areas in your life that need to be restructured?
 - A moral restructuring of our lives is getting our lives right in accordance with the righteousness of God.

2) Doing the restructuring

- It is no use knowing the areas of our lives – or church – need restructuring and we don't do anything about it.
- We need to take the list of areas that need restructuring and start making the changes.
- Physical
 - Learn to live practically life as it is now and not how it used to be.
- Mental
 - A person's thoughts determine the action of his life.

- “As a person thinks so he is”
- We need to refocus our attention on God, his goodness and his purposes – set your mind on things above.
- Let us take our focus off all the wrong that has been done to us that has caused our trauma and hurt – take keep asking “what if...?”
- Let us be people who understand the will of God i.e. realign our thinking to the mind of Christ in who we are and what we do.
- *MT 16:21* From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."
- Emotional
 - We need to refocus our emotions
 - Be led by the Spirit and not by our emotions – let our emotions be subject to the Spirit of God.
 - We will be able to make Spirit led and not emotional led decisions.
 - Ask the question: “Am I doing this because that is the way I feel or because it is the right thing to do?”
- Spiritual
 - Nehemiah got the Israelites to stop doing what was wrong and to start doing what was right. A change was in order.
 - Spiritual restructuring needs to take place in practical ways – often we cannot separate the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual as we are a whole person and all are interrelated.
 - When we know that we have gone off on pleasure or pain swings during our trauma and hurt we need to put them aside to do what is right in God’s eyes.
 - Keep ourselves out of temptations way.
 - Sometimes past relationship hurts could still keep us in bondage with soul ties that need to be broken.

3) Moving on with life into God’s purposes

- *Philippians 3:12 - 14* Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
- *Jeremiah 29: 11* “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”
- The past cannot be changed but it is up to us how we live from now on.
 - Will we go our own way and live in the misery of the past or will we hold on to the promises of God and take hold of his plans and purposes for our lives?
 - Holding onto the past is a declaration that the rest of our lives will be fruitless and barren.
 - Letting go of the past and reaching for what God has for us will bring blessing and fruitfulness to us and to those around us.

Without restructuring our lives our restoration cannot and will not be complete.