

Restoration – The Plan

When we see the need for restoration there were 3 ways we could respond:

- Deny it
- Acknowledge it and continue life without taking responsibility for it
- Be convicted in the heart that moves us to action whether for personal restoration or for corporate restoration – the church.

If we decided to take action then the first thing that needs to be done is to make a plan on how we are going to go about it.

Many people don't like to plan. They like things just to happen.

A common saying is "If we fail to plan then we plan to fail".

Nehemiah 2: 1 – 20

- 1) Confront the issue at hand (vs. 1 – 10)
 - When there is an undealt with issue in our lives and/or church it cannot be hidden. It will be noticed. (vs. 1 – 2)
 - Be honest about what the issue is that needs to be dealt with. (v. 3)
 - With God
 - With yourself
 - With others IF it concerns them.
 - Plan time to deal with it (v. 6)
 - Trust God to do the impossible (vs. 7 – 9)

- 2) Survey the issue (vs. 11 – 15)
 - When starting to deal with the issue at hand, take time to think about it. (v. 11)
 - Quieten your heart – emotions are normally stirred up when beginning a process of restoration
 - Think about what you want to do and what God wants to do in this situation.
 - Be aware that restoration is a work of God and it is He who puts it in our hearts (v. 12)
 - Don't immediately tell everyone what God has told you to do. The time will come for that.
 - First be sure that you have some facts together.
 - Do a survey of the issue (vs. 13 – 15)
 - This gives clarity of what the situation really is and where the problem lies.
 - Things to look for in a survey for restoration:
 - What is God's intention for wholeness?
 - What areas of my life or the church need to be restored to what God intended them to be?
 - What is the history of the problem?
 - What am I thinking?
 - What am I feeling?
 - Who is involved?
 - Are there relationships that need to be restored?
 - Is it a problem that I can deal with alone or do I need help dealing with it?

- 3) Draw in others who will assist in the restoration process (vs. 16 – 18)
- It is Very seldom – if at all – that anyone can deal with the work of restoration on their own.
 - Restoration is a work of God but He uses the body of Christ to stand together in carrying it out.
 - We are called to carry one another's burdens. (Galatians 6: 2)
 - Let us share the heart of restoration amongst us and call each other to it. (v.17)
 - When doing so share how God had laid it on your heart and how He had made it possible.
 - When called let us be enthusiastic about bringing about restoration (v. 18)
- 4) Plan to be opposed (vs. 19 – 20)
- Know that any work of restoration, whether in your personal life or in the church, will be opposed.
 - We are in a spiritual warfare and Satan will do his utmost to keep us from healing and wholeness.
 - Be focused on God's purposes in restoration and not on the opposition that comes with it (v. 20)
 - Know that God will grant success in bringing restoration
 - Be assertive in your resolve to start the restoration process. Don't let discouragement dissuade us from it.
 - Resist the enemy.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you

¹ Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.