



RESTORATION

Restoring A Prior Relationship

SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY

Matthew 18:11-14

DEVOTIONAL

Our devotional focus for this week is restoration. Restoration is defined as the act of bringing back, to return something back to its former condition. The Bible speaks of restoration in three forms – restitution, recovery, and repair. We will explore these areas, and more as we walk through the week and look at ways in which Jesus Christ has restored us back to God through His obedience to the cross, and to others.

Jesus' passion for restoration does not wait for us to look for Him. Even though He does not cause the breach....He looks for us!! In the parable He teaches us the value of each one by actively searching for the one that strayed and was lost from the sheepfold.

By faith we know that God's restoration is available now. We must have hearts open to the Shepherd and acknowledge His grace by saying yes to His offer of restoration!

EVENING REFLECTION

As you prepare to end the day, listen to a devotional song like "Yes" from Shekinah Glory Ministry, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and mind to complete restoration in God. Be honest with yourself. Remember restoration involves the mending of a prior relationship. Having a mind that declares....I BELONG TO HIM!!

ACTION ITEM

Now that you have begun the journey of restoration, ask yourself what areas of my life need to be restored.

Be prepared for the Holy Spirit to answer. You may feel the need to return to this question later in the week.

Monday, March 22, 2021



RESTORATION

*Restore My HEART To The
Joy Of Obeying*

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY

Psalm 51:12

DEVOTIONAL

Today's devotional scripture gives us a glimpse into the heart of King David. He offended God by sleeping with another man's wife, and led a plot that resulted in the man being killed to cover his sin.

God's grace sent the prophet to share with David what was done and in doing so David could not deny that he was guilty before God. (2 Sam 12:1-9)

The Hebrew word restore in Psa 51:12, points to a "return to the place of departure.": in other words, restoring here is a hunger for and a commitment to go back to where in my failure, I DEPARTED IN MY HEART, from God. The end of that verse asks God to make me willing in my heart to obey so that I can be restored and again enjoy JOY in my right relationship with HIM!

EVENING REFLECTION

Considering our faults, God is still in love with us and desires that we be restored with joy. Consider the ways in which you have offended God, how He tugged on your heart, and praise Him for being restored!

CALL TO ACTION

Spend time listening to a devotional song such as "Restore Me" by Anthony Evans, and reflecting on the grace that is embedded in God's restoration. Also, plan to watch a short teaching this evening at 7:00 pm CST online on our Facebook our YouTube pages or at afcchicago.org/solemnassembly

Tuesday, March 23, 2021



RESTORATION

*Remove The Plague
Restore What Was Lost*

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY

Joel 2:25-27

DEVOTIONAL

God heals, restores, and blesses us every day. He restores our identity and purpose, and also erases shame, guilt, pride, and other personal experiences of failure and inadequacy. But how is this restoration, this restitution realized? The scripture reference guarantees this blessing of Divine Restitution, but it is based on the scriptures that precede it. These scriptures may be familiar to you. They are chapter 1 and chapter 2 of Joel that we have shared with you many times. They encompass God's call for repentance through Solemn Assembly. The essence is "call for all the people, the priests, the ministers, the young and the old...to come and weep between the porch of the sanctuary and the altar....and cry unto the Lord.

The result...the Lord promises to Restore "all that the invading army of pests...locusts, caterpillars, palmerworms.....etc" had devoured. God promises to remove the reproach of the 'plague' which He sent among His people and Restore what was lost. Today, you can give it all to God. He will fully restore every part of you including disconnected relationship(s).

EVENING REFLECTION

We have learned how God's restoration extends beyond forgiveness. He removes the devastating effects of our failures and restores all that was seemingly lost. As you reflect on the ways in which God has forgiven and restored you, journal how your heart responds.

CALL TO ACTION

Share with someone your thoughts on today's devotional scripture. Also, set a reminder for today at 12:00 pm Central to connect in prayer. You can visit afcchicago.org to connect for one-on-one prayer with a minister via the Virtual Altar, or call the FaithWorks Prayer Line at 773-924-1354.

Let's experience again the wonder of Divine Restoration.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021



RESTORATION

*Remove The Plague
Restore What Was Lost*

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY

Joel 2:25-27

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read Joel 2:25-27 as a group and review today's devotional

The Bible talks about Restoration in three ways:
Restitution, Recovery and Repair...

- How might these three words for **Restoration** play out differently?
- How is this restoration, this restitution realized?
- How have we learned that *God's restoration extends beyond forgiveness* from our devotionals this week?

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



RESTORATION

*He Is Faithful To Restore In
Spite Of Us*

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY

Jeremiah 30:1-3; 16-17

DEVOTIONAL

God promises to restore us because He is faithful, not because of ourselves. This passage of Jeremiah 30 is called the time of “Jacob’s Trouble.” Jacob refers to God’s children whose wandering caused them to fall into the control of their enemies. Despite this, God was Faithful. His promise of deliverance and restoration is fulfilled in the church of the New Testament through Christ’s sacrifice on Calvary. Even His natural people shall ultimately be delivered at the time God has chosen because He Is Faithful. (Rom 11:25-27)

Though life issues mar and damage us, God’s love and power restores us. The love of God heals us, and we can trust that His love never fails.

EVENING REFLECTION

Before you prepare to close out your day, listen to a song such as "Promises" by Maverick City, that reminds us of God’s promises to restore through the end of time.

CALL TO ACTION

Spend at least 15 minutes writing a prayer of thanksgiving and the ways you desire to be restored by God. Your action will nudge the heart of God to respond as you believe Him in faith. Also, open your heart to receive the unmerited grace that alone restores us. Commit to watch a short teaching this evening at 7:00 pm Central.

Thursday, March 25, 2021



RESTORATION

*Enduring Like Christ
Produces Restoration*

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY

1 Peter 2:20-21; 5:6-10

DEVOTIONAL

The process of restoration involves suffering and struggle; yet, when fully received, it opens God's promises of glory, validation, and strength.

It is His glory that we reflect to one another. Peter reminds us that Christ Jesus is our perfect example, which example we must endeavor to follow. God's process of restoration is totally different from ours. Jesus, our Savior and Lord shows us the way, as we trust Him by faith.

EVENING REFLECTION & CALL TO ACTION

Plan to join your AFC family for Face-To-Face Friday with Bishop Smith via Zoom at 6pm CST.

Gather with those in your home, and invite at least five people to join you! The Zoom link is at afcchicago.org

Friday, March 26, 2021



RESTORATION

*Becoming A
'Restorative' Community*

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY

Galatians 6:1-3

DEVOTIONAL

At the beginning of this week, we shared that the process of restoration was evidenced in at least three ways: restitution, recovery and repair. Today's scripture challenges us to manifest all three as we walk faithfully, in spiritual community and fellowship with one another.

We learned on yesterday, that the process of restoration includes struggle. What should happen when we see others struggle from being disconnected from God and other individuals in their lives? How should we respond? Sometimes it's easy to "look over the fence" and see others in need; yet, do nothing.

Today's scripture calls us to action! Just as Jesus Christ deliberately and sacrificially restored and reconciled us back to God, we must help others do the same in love, maturity, and patience. Don't overlook that this demands that we can't live "like everybody else." The scripture indicates that it takes "you which are spiritual KJV" to Restore your brother or sister. This means as he indicates in chap 5, we must "walk in the Spirit...and let the Fruit of the Spirit" become evident in our lives, so as to Biblically Restore others. This is a challenge we must embrace!

EVENING REFLECTION

As you end the week, consider this definition of reconciliation – bring back, restore to friendship the broken relationship. This relationship may be between the person and God, and or the person and others. We are called to restoring peace between those who have become enemies.

CALL TO ACTION

With that definition in mind, and in preparation for next week's devotion, share with someone and or journal an instance of reconciliation in your life. Commit to Focusing on Jesus and becoming an active participant of our RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY.

Saturday, March 27, 2021