

## To Restore What the Devil Stole from You

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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The devil is interested in stealing not only our earthly treasures, but more so, our spiritual treasures; God, however, can readily restore what the enemy has stolen from us.

### 1. The Bible defines restoration as to increase, multiply or improve something to make it significantly better than its former state.

- 1.1 "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10).
- 1.2 Locusts were sent to Egypt as one of the ten plagues (Exo. 10:4-6). They devoured all greens in sight.
- 1.3 "I will repay you double what the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the consuming locust, and the cutter, my great army I sent against you" (Joel 2:25).
- 1.4 In the time of Elisha, Samaria languished from severe famine coupled with the siege of the Arameans. But God delivered Samaria from their enemies and helped them plunder the enemy camp (2 Kings 7:16).

### 2. What God wants to restore in us:

- 2.1 Restoration of Our Relationship with God
  - The story of the Prodigal Son is a perfect depiction of the Father's unconditional love for His repentant children.
  - Restoration can only happen if we ask forgiveness for our sins and change our ways. For where there is repentance, there is always hope.
  - God not only forgives our sins, but restores what our sins have robbed us of.
- 2.2 Restoration of Our blessings
  - "Do not fear, O land! Delight and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals in the wild, for the wilderness pastures sprout green grass. The trees bear fruit, the fig tree and the

vine produce their harvest" (Joel 2:21-22).

- God promises to fulfill our deepest needs, by forgiving us, loving us, for giving us a purpose in our lives and giving us a community.
- God's economy requires that a thief returns more than double what was stolen out of restitution. (Exo. 22)
- God gave Job twice as much as he had before he lost his children and wealth.
- Abraham recovered all that was stolen from him. (Gen. 14:16)
- Let us be careful not to attempt our own restoration through vengeance. God will vindicate us. (Ps. 37:6; Neh. 6:16)
- "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:29-30).

Satan wants to destroy us, but Jesus wants to give us abundant life. Once we allow God to restore our relationship with Him, He will likewise restore the blessings in our lives.

**Reflection:** Do you find that something you once possessed is suddenly missing in your life?

Turn to the one who is best at repossessing what is rightfully yours.

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