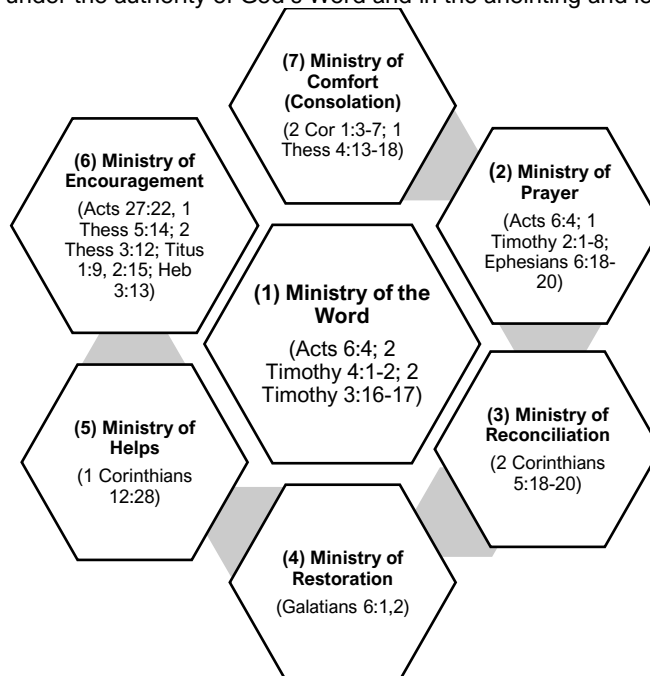


“MINISTRY OF RESTORATION”

Sunday Morning Sermon – Sunday, May 19th, 2019

- *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the **times of restoration** of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” - **Acts 3:19-21 NKJV***
- Today we are going continue along the lines of Natural FAMILY and Spiritual FAMILY. Is RESTORATION something that should be a part of our FAMILIES? What are some of the practical points of truth regarding RESTORATION in our respective individual families and in our spiritual family as a Church?
- Friends, this week we are going to share by the grace and help of God on the **MINISTRY OF RESTORATION**. We must understand that in the Church house, and at your house there should be Seven Ministries at Work under the authority of God’s Word and in the anointing and leading of the Holy Spirit.



- Our Church gets stronger and gets better when every member becomes a **MINISTER**. When we just have more members, we are limited in our strength and our capability. But when every member realizes that they are **CALLED** and summoned from Heaven on high not just to be members of a natural family and a Church family, but we are CALLED and set in that family to be a **MINISTER**.
- **Psalms 68:6 (NKJV)** – *“God sets to solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.”*
 - Our Father God is a Family-oriented Father. God creates and loves FAMILY. The Kingdom of God and the Body of Christ is His FAMILY!
- We must remember that we each have been CALLED with: (1) A **HIGH** Calling (**Philippians 3:14**) (2) A **HEAVENLY** Calling (**Hebrews 3:1**) (3) A **HOLY** Calling (**2 Timothy 1:9**).

- Being a **MINISTER** at home as a husband/father, as a wife/mother, as child/brother or sister is a *High, Heavenly* and *Holy* CALLING to be a **MINISTER** in that family. Being a Part, Partaker and a Partner in Church Family is a High, Heavenly and Holy **CALLING** to be a MEMBER and a MINISTER in that family.
- Being a good **MINISTER** means that you: serve, attend to, and cares for needs of others in that family. The idea and concept to visualize is that of a “under rower” on a ship.
- You *accept* and *assume* the “responsibility to” others and the “responsibility for” yourself in both natural and spiritual (Church) family. What are the needs of every family?
 - **4 Basic Needs:**
 - **1st – SPIRITUAL Needs:** Salvation in Christ, Discipling and Developing in Christ; Allowing the Word of God to govern your life in three areas: (1) What you THINK (2) What you SAY and (3) What you DO. Learning to live responsive to, control by, filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.
 - **2nd – RELATIONAL Needs:** God is a relational God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Fellowship, Friendship, Partnership, Supernatural Relationship. Isolation and independence are unhealthy and relationally irresponsible in a natural family or Church family. Family is a team. There is no “I” in team. Don’t have an “I” Problem. (There are 12 Key Relationship Workout “One Another” Scriptures in the New Testament). These workouts greatly assist us in **MINISTERING** friendship, fellowship and partnership in our house, and in the Church house.
 - **3rd – MISSIONAL Needs:** God calls and works in families. Each Church Family has a unique and united purpose. Every family exists for a God-ordained purpose of either being doers, donors or door openers in the Kingdom of God (the Big Family).
 - **4th – FINANCIAL Needs:** Remember, the family is the primary economic unit. Finance and Resource management is to provide for the purpose of the overall primary business and economic unit – the Family.
- We **MINISTER** to serve, to bless and benefit others, and not just to be served by others. Like our Lord Jesus Christ, we should be **MODEL** and communicate a clear **MESSENGE** of effective MINISTRY.
- **Read John 13:1 – 17 (NKJV)** Friends, our *love* and *security* as Christ-like MINISTERS should be the motivating forces to serve others in our natural family and in our Church (Spiritual) Family. That is:
 - **POSSESSIVE** (Jesus loved His own; We should authentically and intentionally love our Family and our Church Family and the people of our family. We should endear and hold dear our family.
 - We never *disown, disrespect, dishonor* or show *disregard* for our family, our Church and our spiritual family
 - **CONTINUOUS** (Jesus loved them to the end; We should let our love consistently and caringly continue for each other – **Hebrews 13:1 (NKJV)** – “*Let brotherly love continue.*”)
 - **UNCONDITIONAL** (Jesus even washed Judas’s feet; We love with unconditional compassion and care for one another; We lovingly **MINISTER**, freely **SERVE** and lay down our lives for our natural and spiritual family. We embrace an “others first” mentality. Our mentality is sacrifice and support to others. That’s genuine, real **MINISTRY!** We have to not only receive each other as MEMBERS in our family, but also receive others as **MINISTERS** in our family. We are called to be Members and Ministers!
 - **UNSELFISH** (Jesus was serving in His most difficult hour; We must continue to lead and love unselfishly through the tough times and trials of our personal lives; We must lead and love through life’s difficulties – unselfishly!)
 - **SECURE** (Jesus knew…)
 - His **POSITION** and was willing not to flaunt it.
 - His **CALLING** and was willing to be faithful to it.
 - His **FUTURE** and was willing to submit to it.
 - Jesus demonstrated He could serve others because He was secure and confident about Who He was apart from titles. He was conscious of people, not positions.
 - We must check our heart as Members and Ministers in our family.
 - Security is the pre-requisite to great undertakings. Only the secure ministers will **STRETCH**.
 - Security is the pre-requisite to small undertakings. Only the secure will **STOOP**.

THE MINISTRY OF RESTORATION

- **Galatians 6:1 - 2 (NKJV)** – “*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*”
 - **(TPT)** – “*My beloved friends, if you see a believer who is overtaken with a fault, may the one who overflows with the Spirit seek to restore him. Win him over with gentle words, which will open his*

heart to you and will keep you from exalting yourself over him. ² Love empowers us to fulfill the law of the Anointed One as we carry each other's troubles."

- **The Difference Between the Ministry of Reconciliation and the Ministry of Restoration.**
 - **The Ministry of Reconciliation** – Seeks to bring people into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is **INTRODUCING** people to The Lord Jesus Christ. It is **INFORMING** them of and **IMPACTING** them with the Gospel of Christ. It is intentionally **INFLUENCING** the lost to find new life in Christ and be born again. **2 Corinthians 5:17 – 21 (NKJV)** – *"¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us **the ministry of reconciliation**, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God**. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*
 - In a natural family. Those who know Christ as their Lord should be actively exercising their faith to win others to Christ in that family.
 - In the spiritual Church family. We go out and find the lost and lonely to bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by their receiving Him as their personal Lord and Savior. They then become MEMBERS of the Body of Christ. You can't simply join in, you have to be Born in (Born Again).
 - **The Ministry of Restoration** – Seeks to **RESTORE** people back to fellowship and connected relationship with **CHRIST** and their **COMPANY**. This **RESTORATION** Ministry focuses on those who have **STRAYED**, those who are **STRUGGLING** live for and obey the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word and those who have **SLIPPED** back into **SINFUL** living. **Galatians 6:1 – 2 (AMPC)** – *"Brethren, if any person is overtaken in misconduct or sin of any sort, you who are spiritual [who are responsive to and controlled by the Spirit] should set him right and **restore and reinstate** him, without any sense of superiority and with all gentleness, keeping an attentive eye on yourself, lest you should be tempted also.² Bear (endure, carry) one another's burdens and troublesome moral faults, and in this way fulfill and observe perfectly the law of Christ (the Messiah) and complete what is lacking [in your obedience to it]."*
- **Two key components of the Ministry of Restoration: (1) Prayer (2) Practice of Restoring**
 - Bearing and carrying one another's overload is a prayer thing. Sin and wrongdoing "sickens and spoils" a person spiritual and mental health. Effective Spirit-led prayer sets up the grace and goodness of God for them to **REPENT** and be **RESTORED**.
 - This kind of praying also works in relational context between people: **James 5:15 – 16 (AMPC)** – *"¹⁵ And the prayer [that is] of faith will save him who is sick, and the Lord will **restore** him; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and **restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]**. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."*
- **Accountability Is Critical.** As Ministers we are **RESPONSIBLE** and **ACCOUNTABLE** to both **pray** and **effectively practice** the Ministry of Restoration.
- Execution of the Ministry of Restoration and diligence requires accountability. David stated, *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."* **Psalms 119:11 KJV**. David chose to diligently store the Word of God within the bedrock of his heart.
- We must choose to be accountable to God by treasuring His Word. Choose to store God's principles upon the walls of your heart and let His Word lead and the Holy Spirit lead you.
- Your MINISTRY execution of both the Ministry of Reconciliation and the Ministry of Restoration you're your faithful obedience is to DO it not just for you, it's for the future.
- Your obedience sets the tone, precedent and pattern for generations to come. Solomon followed after David. The next generation is following your example. It's your choice to either establish a pattern of generational success or you can disobey God and establish a generational pattern of defeat and failure.
- Your obedience, diligence, and execution serves as an generational umbrella that feeds the faith of those that follow you. What if Abraham did not take the first step and chose not to obey God? According to **Romans 4:20**, Abraham staggered not at the promises of God; he was strong in faith. Abraham chose to believe God despite the circumstances that surrounded him. Your faithfulness and diligence to adhere to and to obey God's Word will nourish generations that follow after you. **THIS IS FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FOR YOUR FUTURE!**

- Choose to obey God. Choose to surround yourself with those who choose to lead their families in integrity and who diligently pursue after their God-given purpose.
- Remember, last week we shared in our teaching on “Effective Parenting” that is a vital that Fathers and Mother assume their responsibility to “pound in” the standards and truths of the Word of God through faithful application of (1) INSTRUCTION and (2) DISCIPLINE.
- ACCOUNTABILITY for us as Born-Again Believers should be *perceived* and *received* as a both SAFE **PLACE** and a SPIRITUAL **PRACTICE** which provides and equips you with the framework to maintain “healthy boundaries” and flow of “constructive feedback” which helps to balance your thinking and decision-making to act and stay faithfully active as MEMBERS and MINISTERS in our families.
- **3 C’s of ACCOUNTABILITY:**
 - **(1) CHARACTER** – ensuring and encouraging you retain and maintain the Christ-like attributes, attitude and actions in your life.
 - **(2) CALLING** – ensuring and encouraging you to hotly and passionately pursue your eternal purpose and the Lord’s glorious plan for your life and your family. Our CALLING is high PRIORITY; comes from the HIGHEST AUTHORITY (Heaven) and is most HOLY (Pure).
 - **(3) COVENANT** – ensuring and encouraging you to partake and appropriate your Covent RIGHTS in Christ; and that you also accept and assume your Covenant **ROLES** and **RESPONSIBILITIES** in the Body of Christ.
 - Covenant means you commit to God and His Word as He as committed to you. You commit to God and your natural family and your spiritual Church family.
 - Remember, you **BECOME** what you are committed to.