

RESTORATION PRECEDES REVIVAL



1. Restoration enabled

Restoration means 'to bring back to the former condition'. Where is Restoration enabled?

- In the church – you can't restore the unsaved!
- Individually – the Church is restored only by the individuals being restored.

Isa 40:1-2 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed ["it is finished", Jn 19:30], that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

We are called to two activities: comfort and proclaim. 'Comfort' refers to relationship, 'proclaim' refers to the Word of God. The work of the Cross is a complete and finished work (Col 2:13-15 etc.). It's time! There is an urgency. We have to proclaim this message to the people in the Western **Church**. This message is for Believers, not for the unsaved.

2. Restoration action & fulfilment

Announce to the people of God that they can no longer be passive; they are called to **action**.

Isa 40:3-6 A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD ; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

God's word never returns to Him empty!

Isa 55:11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

3. Restoration fulfilment

Matt 3:1-6 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2 and saying, ##"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near [for us tho' it's 'here' not 'near']." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" 4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

Then there was response to the word of God that never returns empty(see above ##):

5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.

This is Restoration in practise; the people returning through repentance to a just, merciful and loving God. This is fruit that shows.

4. Restoration truth

Isa 40:6-8 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."

This life is so temporary; almost a blink in the time scale of God, yet if you ask people they inwardly feel a kind of immortality "I'll think about that tomorrow, next year, I'm only 20... etc.". Friends, we have to warn our family, friends colleagues etc. that:

Luke 12:20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

5. Restoration message

a. It starts with a word

*Isa 40:9 You who bring good tidings **to Zion** [to the Church], go up on a high mountain [your faith must be exposed]. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a **shout**, lift it up, **do not** be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "**Here is your God!**"*

Witnessing and Evangelism are critical for Restoration and Revival! How will people hear the truth of Salvation if they are not told the truth? And then from whom will they hear this truth if not from their family and friends?

b. The secret of Restoration and Revival

Restoration and Revival hinges around the vision of God that we have in our heart and mind. That vision gives us our picture of the character of God, and based on that picture, we respond in the spiritual realms.

If our God is too small, then we do nothing ... and the church does nothing. If our picture is that of the real, one true God, then nothing is impossible and we will see, and be part of, Restoration and Revival!

*Mat 17:20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. **Nothing will be impossible** for you."*

Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing will be impossible."

Who is our God. He is the God of power and compassion (vv 10,11) - the character of the Lord Jesus Christ! The image of the true Sovereign Lord God:

- unmatched power vv 12
- doesn't need a consultant vv 13-14
- above all v 22

- no threat vv 23-24
- no comparison vv 18, 25-26
- strength vv 28-31

6. Restoration promise

Reflect again on vv 28-31:

Isa 40:28-31 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

How are we today? Do we have that vision of the great God in our minds and hearts, or are we tired, apathetic, unsure?

We need to be restored in our vision of, and our walk with, the living God! When we know the power of the Cross of Jesus Christ, then we can do all things to bring those we know and love to Christ:

*Jude 1:22-23 Be merciful to those who doubt; 23 **snatch** others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear--hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.*

But please note; you cannot truly love Christ unless you hate sin – i.e. hate sin, but love the Sinner!

(Download a zipped version in Word 6 and RTF formats: [Restore.zip](#))

[Top of this page](#)

[Return to the 'Word Today' page](#)