

THE PROMISE OF RESTORATION

Come let us return to the Lord.... Hosea 6:1-3 | DEVOTIONAL 10

Do you believe that God can restore anything? Can God restore a broken marriage, a barren womb, a prodigal child, a lost job, a run-down business, a tarnished reputation? This may sound simple but what if your need for restoration requires nothing short of a miracle? Can He raise that dead relative, heal a terminal disease, save that child addicted to substance abuse or pornography, grant salvation to an elderly parent or grandparent whose sunset is drawing nigh?

God specializes in the business of restoration.

A few years ago, I felt led by God to enter a 40-day fast for my family. I had prayed for years for God to turn around our captivity and to end seasons of drought. Job promotions were elusive in our family; there was a lack of a steady source of income. It did not make sense that highly educated people were struggling. Once we had been the talk of the village as a family to emulate but as the years wore on, the wells seemed to have dried up; marriages were not forth coming, the house was falling apart. Now we were the talk of the village but for different reasons.

As soon as I began the fast, God promised that He was going to restore us. Excited about the promise, I restored the family altar where we talked about the spirit of offence that had locked doors in our lives. You could have heard a pin drop; it was a light bulb moment. God was calling us to a place of true repentance. He then began to nudge at a hardness in my heart, I had been deeply hurt and wounded by someone

whom God was calling me to forgive. Beyond forgiveness, God wanted me to let the person know I had forgiven them! I watched chains of depression and captivity fall off with every step I took towards that meeting.

Breakthrough happens instantaneously but restoration is a journey that starts with true repentance, re-alignment and submission to God. The scripture says, **“Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces, but He will heal us; He has injured us but He will bind up our wounds. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will restore us, that we may live in His presence.” Hosea 6:1-3**

Restoration begins with returning to the Lord in humility and brokenness, a broken and contrite heart He will not despise. When we return, the Lord promises to heal and bind up any wounds. He promises to first revive, which means renew our commitment and refresh our souls and then eventually restore us to live in His presence. The scripture tells us that there is a time element to restoration and that it is a journey. After two days He will revive us and on the third day He will restore us. This is the time for restoration, will you begin the journey?

Prayer: Lord, restore me. Today I choose to return to You in repentance, forsaking all idols and the sin that has so easily entangled me. Lord, heal my broken places and bind up my wounds so that I may live in Your presence. In Jesus name. Amen