

Take It Home

Applying the Preached Word



Restoration for the Journey

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Text: Psalm 126

Main Point: Our merciful God is the Restorer of what we lose.

Key Ideas: This is a 'Psalm of Ascents' which was sung by God's people on their way to worship. It was sung so that people would remember God's past deliverances as they faced present problems.

Have you ever seen God work mightily in the past, but are struggling to believe that God can do a mighty work now? Do you need to sing a Psalm of Ascents?

1. Recalling God's grace in the past builds faith for the trials of the present (v. 1-3).

- Don't ever forget the times when God has turned things around in your life for good.
- God often restores our circumstances. But his deepest restoration is the restoration of our souls.
- Whenever God puts things right that were wrong, it is a call to celebration.

2. Recalling God's grace in the past presses us to move forward in expectant prayer (v. 4-6).

- Prayer is the act of applying God's promises to circumstances that need his restoration.
- Sometimes God's restoration is a sudden event – like streams flowing in the desert (v.4).
- Sometimes God's restoration is a process – like reaping after a long season of faithful sowing (v. 5-6).
- Don't despair the process or grow weary in prayer. The promise is always for ultimate restoration.
- Those who know Jesus the Restorer, are guaranteed to experience His ultimate restoration.

Fellowship Starters

Treasure - Application to stir our love for Christ

1. What are some other passages in the Bible that give promises of God's restoration?

2. Describe God's most powerful act of restoration in your life (could include family members).

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Grow - Application to stir our obedience to Christ

3. Describe a time when you were turning from trust in God and He turned your heart. What means did God use?

- An intervention of the Holy Spirit.
- A hard thing said by a faithful friend.
- Consequences of your choices or actions.
- Protection from consequences of your choices or actions.
- Conviction in response to God's word preached.
- Other.

4. When God restores something in our lives the temptation can be to simply say, 'wow, I'm glad that's over' and move onto the next burden. How can we make sure we are properly celebrating God's restoration acts?

5. Is there any place where you are waiting for God's restoration and are growing weary in prayer?

Proclaim - Application to stir our witness for Christ

6. How can you reach out to others by telling your restoration story?

Song Set

His Name is Jesus – found on the album Next 2009 Live by Sovereign Grace Music

Worthy – song written by Dave Brown. Not available on an album

Jesus Thank You – found on Worship God Live by Sovereign Grace Music

O Sacred Head Now Wounded – traditional hymn

Praise To The Lord The Almighty – found on the album Hymns Ancient and Modern by Passion