

# Full Restoration

By Dr. Dan Cheatham, [www.devotional.net](http://www.devotional.net)

The Bible doesn't teach that we have the ministry of repentance. II Corinthians 5 teaches us "WE HAVE THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION."1 Repentance is the first step toward making any progress with God. But what bothers me today among Spirit-filled circles, is our failure to help people experience TOTAL RECONCILIATION, or RESTORATION. I see too many people repenting of sins, yet not receiving a complete healing that transforms their lives and prevents that sin from happening again. I see TOO MUCH SURFACE REPENTANCE, and TOO LITTLE LIFE-CHANGING RESTORATION. People repent for certain things; get forgiveness from God; then try to go right on, never allowing God to REPAIR THE REAL PROBLEM ON THE INSIDE.

## A WORD STUDY

First let's look at some scriptures containing the word reconciliation and restoration and their Greek definitions from Strong's Concordance:

*II Corinthians 5:18 "and all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation..."(2643 and 2644).*

2643 - Katallage, from 2644; exchange (fig. Adjustment), i.e. restoration to (the divine) favor: - atonement, reconciliation(ing).

2644 - Katallasso, from 2596 and 236; to change mutually, i.e. (fig.) to compound a difference: - reconcile.

*Galatians 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault (sin), ye which are spiritual, restore such one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (2675).*

2675 - Katartizo, from 2596 and a derivative of 739; to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (lit. or fig.) or adjust - fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect (-ly, join together), prepare, restore.

The word "repentance" means to "change your mind" and "turn around". Repentance is THE FIRST STEP. But Restoration is the DESIRED END. From the scriptures and definitions above we can see that RESTORATION involves

1. EXCHANGE
2. ADJUSTMENT
3. CHANGE MUTUALLY
4. COMPOUNDING A DIFFERENCE
5. REPAIR
6. MENDING
7. JOINING TOGETHER
8. COMPLETING THOROUGHLY

This is where the problem lies. Most Christians want forgiveness but won't allow God or their Christian brother who is trying to help them TO THOROUGHLY COMPLETE AN INTERNAL ADJUSTMENT AND CHANGE.

## **FULL CYCLE**

Here is where we have missed it. We've taught people that repentance is enough. We've failed to teach them the **FULL CYCLE OF RESTORATION**. We've left out the next step after repentance: **RESTITUTION!** Whatever happened to **RESTITUTION?** When a person sins, that sin effects those around him; it effects spouse, children, parents, relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ, those above him in spiritual authority, those below him in spiritual authority, peers, and others. Most of the time our sins require at least a **VERBAL RESTITUTION** to someone, asking their forgiveness. Sometimes it is **RESTITUTION OF PROPERTY OR MONEY**, or **RESTITUTION OF HONOR**.

But my question is: Whatever happened to **RESTITUTION?** John the Baptist said, "Bring forth **FRUIT** meet for repentance."<sup>2</sup> May I paraphrase this verse: "**AFTER YOU'VE REPENTED, DO SOMETHING THAT PROVES TO GOD AND MAN YOU'VE TURNED YOUR BACK ON THAT SIN AND TURNED TOWARD GOD.**" Jesus teaches **RESTITUTION** in Matthew 5:23-26. If you bypass restitution, all the rest of your spiritual activity is **FUTILITY**. God is not impressed. Zacchaeus received a total restoration of internal character by first repenting and then making restitution in Luke 19:1-10. **RESTITUTION** crucifies the pride and internal problem that gave root to the sin. **YOU CAN'T GET RESTORATION WITHOUT RESTITUTION!** Restitution is the **LAW OF GOD!** Listen to these words out of Exodus 22: "Restore, make full restitution, restore double, make restitution, pay double, pay double, make restitution, make good, make it good, make it good." Praise God! No wonder Christians are everlastingly having to get fresh forgiveness for the same sin over and over again... They're not making restitution to God or man.

## **MY STORY**

Once I was deceived for a period of time, by another minister who had some internal problems. I was apprenticing at that time under an anointed pastor. Over a period of time this other minister drew me away from my loyalty to my pastor. It was a slow, subtle, deceiving thing that I failed to recognize despite warnings from my pastor. When I finally saw my error months later, I came weeping profusely in repentance and restitution to my pastor whom I had partially betrayed. I had to "right my wrong". I had to "ask man's forgiveness" as well as God's. I had to "mortify my rebellion". I had to "acknowledge divine authority in the members I wounded". I had to "make things right". I had to "cover my tracks". I had to "swallow my pride". I had to "admit that I was wrong". I had to "fess up" first to God and then to my pastor. To this day, this minister with internal problems, who has caused more than one church split, wounded many fellow ministers, and stolen sheep from other men's folds, **HAS NOT MADE VERBAL RESTITUTION**. Several times, he has tried to hold "**PEACE POW-WOWS**" or "**TREATIES**", but true repentance and restitution from the heart has never happened. This minister now has a church of his own which he started on the wrong foundation. All those who have been close to his ministry for any period of time have had to "**MARK**" him as commanded in Romans 16:17. It is unfortunate because all the pastors and sheep whom he has sinned against will quickly admit that this minister probably has more raw potential in God than any other as far as his **MINISTRY, MESSAGE, and MANIFESTATIONS** of the Holy Spirit. His **MARRIAGE** is good, but his **MANNERS, METHODS, and lack of MATURITY** disqualify him. All he would have to do to be **RESTORED** to full favor with God, fellow ministers, and men is to **REPENT and MAKE REAL RESTITUTION**.

**RESTORATION = REPENTANCE + RESTITUTION**

**ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES!**

## **SCRIPTURES**

II Corinthians 5:18

Matthew 3:8