



LESSON 6 // RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RESTORED

One of the central themes in God's Word is His heart to restore people. He wants each of us to experience His restoration power!

He also wants those who are restored to be part of the restoration process. With restoration comes responsibilities! Let's look at three responsibilities God has given us as His restored people.

1. Live in the freedom and joy of your restoration.

The primary reason God restores us is because He loves us. Because the Lord loves people, He puts their broken lives back together. And His heart for those who have been restored is that they would enjoy their new freedom.

There are many believers who have never entered into the freedom and joy of the restorative work Jesus has done in their lives. They continue to live like a prisoner, or in fear that they are going to become a prisoner again.

Instead we should enjoy, trust and be grateful to God for what He has done—and live differently because of it! Notice what the Lord says in His Word about this:

Psalm 126:3 (NLT) *Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy!*

Isaiah 51:11 (NLT) *Those who have been ransomed by the Lord will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness.*

John 8:36 (NLT) *So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.*

Galatians 5:1 (TEV) *Freedom is what we have—Christ has set us free! Stand, then, as free people, and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.*

2. Treat people the way God treated you.

God's restoration is a gift of His mercy and grace, not something we deserve or earn. The tendency of our human nature is to take without giving. By nature we all are takers—self-focused and self-consumed.

Part of demonstrating a restored life, and part of your responsibility as a restored person, is to become a giver—to treat people the way God treated you. We see this proof of restoration in a man named Zacchaeus, who promised to treat people in a very different way after Jesus treated him with mercy and grace!

Luke 19:8, 9 (NLT) *Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”* ⁹ *Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.”*

3. Be a messenger and minister of restoration to others.

God has agents of restoration in His world—people He uses to accomplish His work of restoration. Whether we realize it or not, we are always in one of three spiritual modes: either we’re contributing to God’s work in the world, having no impact on His work in the world, or hurting and hindering this work.

The Lord is looking for those who fit the first category—people who are contributing to His work in the world. Think of the people God has used in your life to get you to where you are today. You would not be where you are if it were not for people who chose to let God use them.

Note the word “chose”! Being used by God is a choice. It involves a decision to move outside of ourselves and the limits of our own world and invest in the healing of others.

This is what restored people should do. Sadly, many folks are content to enjoy their own blessings, but do little or nothing to help others experience similar blessings.

The Bible is very clear about the responsibilities of the restored to be messengers and ministers of restoration to others:

Galatians 6:1, 2 (NIV) *Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.* ² *Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

2 Corinthians 1:3, 4 (NLT) *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.* ⁴ *He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

What an amazing privilege and opportunity we have to be ambassadors of God’s restoration. Think of all He has done in you and now let Him work through you for His purposes!

Discussion questions

1. Read John 8:36 and Galatians 5:1. What do these verses tell you about the freedom you’ve been given?
2. Read Luke 19:8, 9. How does this passage speak to you about your responsibility as someone that Jesus has restored by His grace and mercy?
3. What does it mean for you to be a “messenger and minister of restoration to others”? What are some practical ways you can do this in your daily life?