

ADDRESSING THE DAMAGE

March 1, 2021

PSALM 51:12 NKJV – (12) Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

I recall this person who started their car and when it started up the check engine oil signal light came on the dashboard. You see he had neglected his car and this was the third time the light or signal had come on in his car. So he turned his car off and started it up again. Why? Hoping that when it started back up the signal wouldn't come on again and this time it didn't. But the oil was still low. We Christians have a tendency of doing God the same way. He sends that signal called conviction to tell us we need to take heed to something, change the way it is being handled and we ignore it because of simple disobedience, fear, complacency and/or even laziness (meaning it isn't a priority).

Restoration in the Bible is identical with healing, repairing, returning to a previous state of being although we may stray from steadfast faith and obedience, there are numerous Bible verses about restoration we can look to for inspiration for renewal in our lives. Restoration is a recurring theme in scripture as those who strayed from the teachings and love of God sought to restore their divine relationship with Him. Further occurrences of repairing what had decayed included personal relationships, fortunes, and health.

In the scripture above, David felt stagnant in his faith. His sinful behavior drove a wedge between him and God. He had just sinned with Bathsheba and he was confronted by the Prophet Nathan. Prior to Nathan confronting him, you should have heard David's remarks he made to Nathan. As if he was innocent. David was going through the motions as we sometimes do as well. The Spirit of God was on the Prophet and he knew the truth. God knows the truth and sometimes people have the gift of discernment and they know the truth as well. But put your mind on the One who knew and knows. So you ask, "What should I do since I am a qualified recipient of this story?" **GO TO GOD NOW....**

(1) RECOGNIZE – What you did. What has been brought to your attention?

(2) REEVALUATE – The damage you have caused.

(3) REPENT – Change from the way you handled your sinful status. Allow God to "Remold" your way of thinking.

(4) RESTORATION – Back to God's original design.

Oh in the story above, that friend was me with the car issues. Out of my negligence I almost blew the engine because I wouldn't take heed to the signal light on my dashboard. But because I don't take that for granted anymore, I have that car today after buying it in 2005 and it runs very well. Thank you Father for your provisions. And once He restores you according to His plan, thank Him again and again.

SCRIPTURE READING: JEREMIAH 30:17

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: When God forgives, He at once restores.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"