

The God Who Restores

Dr. John Carmichael

[Joe 2:25-27 NASB95] 25 "Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. 26 "You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame. 27 "Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God, And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame.

- Joel wrote to a people whose world had collapsed. A locust invasion destroyed their crops, their economy, their security, and their hope.
- The enemy did not take a moment, he took years.
- Yet in the middle of devastation, God speaks a word no prophet had ever declared before:
- "I will restore the years..."
- God does not just restore things. He restores what seems impossible: Years, Seasons, Joy, Confidence, and Hope.
- As we near the end of this year, and step into a new chapter as North Church, God is declaring restoration over His people again.

What do we need to know about the God Who restores from this passage?

Here are four things that we need to know about the God Who restores.

I. GOD RESTORES WHAT WAS LOST

- a. [Joe 2:25 NASB95] 25 "Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you.
- b. "Make up" (Hebrew: shālam) means: to repay, to complete, to make whole
- c. God does not merely return what was taken. He brings completion to seasons that were left empty.
- d. [Isa 61:7 NASB95] 7 Instead of your shame [you will have a] double [portion,] And [instead of] humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double [portion] in their land, Everlasting joy will be theirs.
- e. Whether your loss came from decisions, circumstances, or spiritual attack, God can restore seasons that felt wasted.
- f. Ask Him specifically: Restore my joy, Restore my purpose, Restore my strength, Restore my missed opportunities
- g. He does not restore partially. He restores fully.

II. GOD RESTORES YOUR PROVISION AND WELL-BEING

- a. [Joe 2:26a NASB95] 26 "You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied...
- b. "Plenty" means more than enough. "Be satisfied" means filled to contentment, without lack or anxiety.
- c. [Phl 4:19 NASB95] 19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
- d. God restores in practical ways: Needs met, Resources replenished, Stability returned, Anxiety lifted
- e. Where scarcity once ruled, God promises overflow.
- f. You don't have to enter the new year in fear; enter it in confidence that God provides.

III. GOD REMOVES SHAME AND REBUILDS HONOR

- a. [Joe 2:26b NASB95] 26 ...Then My people will never be put to shame.

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- b. [Joe 2:27c NASB95] 27 "... and My people will never be put to shame.
- c. God repeats this promise twice. Why?
 - i. Because shame is one of the enemy's strongest weapons.
 - ii. Restoration is not complete until shame is broken.
- d. [Rom 10:11 NASB95] 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED [kataischuno = to shame or disgrace]."
- e. God will remove: Shame from failure, Shame from past decisions, Shame from broken relationships, Shame from financial struggles, Shame from spiritual battles
- f. You are not entering the next season with your head down. You are entering it with dignity restored by God Himself.

IV. GOD RESTORES YOUR CONFIDENCE IN HIS PRESENCE

- a. [Joe 2:27 NASB95] 27 "Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God, And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame.
 - b. This restoration leads to recognition: "You will KNOW I am in your midst." The greatest restoration is not material, it is relational. God restores your awareness of His nearness.
 - c. [Psa 46:1 NASB95] 1 For the choir director. [A Psalm] of the sons of Korah, set to Alamoth. A Song. God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.
 - d. He restores your: Trust in His goodness, Confidence in His presence, Expectation for answered prayer, Faith to believe again
 - e. Restoration is not just about what returns. It's about who God becomes to you again.
- God not only restores what was lost, He removes shame, revives joy, and reveals Himself in the middle of it.
 - Joel 2 moves us from:
 - Devastation → Promise
 - Loss → Restoration
 - Shame → Honor
 - Fear → Confidence in God
 - As this year closes, declare not what the enemy has done, but what God is doing.
 - He restores. He replenishes. He removes shame. He revives hope. He dwells with His people.
 - The God who restored Israel restores you.