



“HE RESTORES MY SOUL!”

By Mary Mayko

**Ps.23:3 “He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of
righteousness for His name’s
sake.”**

What a blessing when the LORD restores our soul! The LORD orders our steps in a right way that we may progress on in His righteousness! When we are tired, we’re often overwhelmed by our emotions and thoughts that run rampant, or by feelings that flow from one extreme to the other! We wear our selves out when we fail to take time to find a place and means of restoration.

The need to be restored means we need to be mended or made whole again. Something in our life is out of order! Psalm 23 has been a source of comfort to multitudes in countless ways! In this Psalm, we have the assurance of restoration when we allow Him to lead us in His pathways. It is there we find rest, safety and nourishment for our bodies, minds and spirit!

As we find our renewal in His Presence and wisdom, we are often being furnished with the tools or growth we need for whatever lies ahead. When we have been restored, we have new confidence that *God does have a purpose* for our lives and we can go forth with a new zeal for His work!

When *our soul gets weary*, our vision of God’s purpose for our lives is clouded. That is a signal for us to stop and rest, to receive fresh nourishment for our soul. When we get overly tired or weak, we cannot think or reason correctly. It is at those times we make some serious mistakes or fail to do what we believe is expected of us. The Enemy takes advantage then, to heap *guilt feelings* on top of top of the weariness. That leads to discouragement and some even give up on the vision they *once were so sure* was the proper course for their life!

It is an *act of maturity* to stop and rest so the LORD can restore our soul! Jesus exhorted us to rest, to cast our cares on Him. Matt.11:28 KJV “Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Christ was perfectly balanced in His life and encourages us to follow His example! Go somewhere alone and pray! Get away from the crowds at times! Learn how to *sleep even* in the midst of your storms of life. Jesus often instructed His followers to keep a proper balance in life! Mark 6:31a “And He said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart unto a desert place and rest awhile.”

Balance is a right ordering of the mind, body and spirit, and enables us to walk in His paths of righteousness. Remember, it is for His name’s sake He leads us correctly along the right paths with room for rest and renewal along the way. It is there the LORD restores our soul! Then we will be prepared to meet the people or circumstances that will become a part

of our life. May the LORD restore your soul today! Let His joy be an ever present source of strength! Blessings!

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“CONFRONT AND CONQUER”

Mary Mayko 2005

Psalm 139:23-24 LB “Search me O God, and know my heart; test my thoughts. Point out anything you find in me that makes you sad, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”

With so many conflicts and problems in our lives today, it is sometimes hard to settle our mind and spirit down and do a real heart examination! There is confusion about the economy, the health

issues, and whatever else is in the News. Words are tossed around as facts, while truth is often far from what we are hearing! Who do we listen to? Who can we trust? Will these difficulties ever be brought to a conclusion? What about our own spiritual condition? Is anything clouding our discernment of knowledge of God’s Word?

What exactly does it mean to confront myself? In a positive sense it means to face up to reality. If we quiet our mind and let God search our heart, we will find out if we are walking in faith and obedience to His Word. If we try to ignore the negative conditions of our spiritual heart, we cause many problems for ourselves and others around us. Until we are honest and confront any thing that displeases God, we will act and feel like victims. Christ called us to be conquerors!

Romans 8:26-27 “And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

Some have actually convinced themselves they are peacemakers by avoiding any hard issue rather than confronting it. They never argue with others or allow themselves to think they are actually being cowardly by avoiding unpleasant situations. Many people wear a mask to cover their real feelings and thoughts. Others wear both on their faces for all to see and read! Many facial expressions often reveal sadness, anger, fear or anxiety going on inside the person! Can we be honest with ourselves? Listen to Jeremiah as he confronts the people of his day!

Jeremiah 17:9-10 LB “The heart is the most deceitful thing there is and desperately wicked. No one can really know how bad it is! Only the Lord knows! He searches all hearts and examines deepest motives so He can give to each person his right reward, according to his deeds- how he has lived.”

Rather than have a self-righteous attitude, we need to dig out or uncover the *root of the problem and deal with it!*” As long as the root is alive it will send up new shoots of bitterness, fears, resentments, doubts, and an unforgiving spirit. That opens a door that Satan will use against you to cause discouragement and depression. If he can get you to listen to his lies, he will fill your mind with thoughts that hinder your faith and damage your testimony! When you listen to Satan, he will draw you down into his swirling waters of despair and often uses you to drag others along with you!

How can we conquer our inner conflicts and walk in victory? When we ask God to examine our hearts, He is there to release us from our resentments and hurts that occur whenever some one has done us wrong. Sometimes we are the guilty party and need to confront ourselves honestly. Resentments often lead to seeking revenge, which is destructive to the soul! We should be walking in ways that does not deliberately damage others or ourselves.

God does not want us to be *cringing cowards, walking on eggs!* He has forgiven us! Let us also forgive others! Don't allow destructive thoughts to control your mind! Confront them quickly before they can set up a *stronghold that opens a door to Satan and his attacks!*

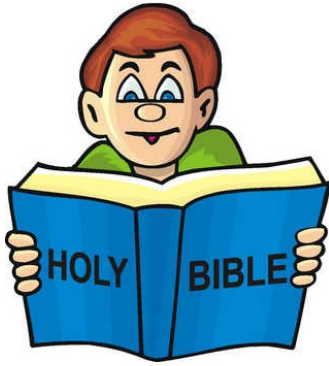
Romans 8:37 ASB “But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

God wants us to help us understand His will and be wise in His ways. That will please and honor Him. He will fill us with His strength and joy and determination to live and walk in victory.

Romans 12:2 ASB “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.’

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“BACK TO BASICS!”

Rev. J. Kehl Golding

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

My News Channel had a segment on “The cost of raising a child” the other night. The Commentator presented “the needs” of his teenager returning to school this year. The *number one item* was three new pairs of jeans, one had to be a pair of Kevin Klein, the other two could be Gap, Jordash or Polo!

Then, a fashionable “hair-do” by a really good stylist, a new “Lap-Top” as mine is slow and *SO outdated!* I need three calculators, one for school, one for home, and one for when I misplace one of the other two! A really good “I-pod” and a “Blackberry”. Of course, an “I-phone” would be the ideal thing!! “And *please Dad, all the new clothes I can get*”!!

Note the very little thought of education in all this!!!

It reminded me of an event a few years ago. We were in a conversation, and a middle school boy was present. The conversation turned to something new when the need arose to know “How much is 7x8?” His reply was; “Dad, I don’t have my calculation with me!” He really didn’t know; they had not learned the multiplication tables at all, *BUT*, how to use the calculator!!

I sat thinking about all this when the phone rang. It was a friend calling to discuss their concern about the church. This was a large church with a couple hundred members, a large sanctuary, and many Sunday school rooms. However, they felt the “need” to build on. [Even in today’s economy] They need a “game room” for the Youth, a room for “counseling”, a “prayer” room, and on and on the list went.

By the time we hung up, I felt utterly “drained”! I started thinking about the “Pentecost” of the “Forties and the Fifties”. We used to go to Camp Meetings “with outdoor showers and rest rooms”. If there was warm water, I certainly don’t remember it.

There was a large, very large building. [I think it was a barn] It was not painted on the inside or outside. There was nothing inside except a shelf-like board that ran all the way round the building, just the right height to kneel and pray. The “carpet” was thick soft saw dust. When you had “prayed through” you simply got up and “dusted” your knees off. But my point is, you “WAITED ON THE LORD”. You took time [perhaps hours] to talk to Him and allow Him to talk to you. The Holy Spirit was truly your Guide and Counselor. Your battles were all fought on your knees and victory was yours.

We were not sent to a “special” room, nor to see a “special” person, or read a certain book. The Bible, the Holy Spirit were our all in all, directing us to Jesus, who is the answer to every problem and situation.

One summer when I was there, the police and fire engines came roaring up the hill to “the barn”. Several townspeople had reported it on fire, all over the roof. They came charging in to lots of people on their knees praying—NO FIRE! The Holy Spirit was very present and active as on the day of Pentecost with tongues of fire resting on the roof! [Acts 2:1-4]

LET’S GET BACK TO BASICS!!!

Declare loud and clear your belief in the Virgin Birth, or do you? A survey tells us over 70% of professing Christians do not!! Without it, what do you have? Joseph knew he was not the father. He thought of putting Mary away. Then an angel of the LORD appeared to him, telling him to take her to wife, for that which is “concerned” in her is of the Holy Ghost. Matthew 2:18-21

If there is no Virgin Birth- we have a harlot for His Mother, and a liar. She declared to an angel at the annunciation of the Birth of Jesus: “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? Luke 1:34.

Without the Virgin Birth- we have an ordinary man [with sin] dying on a cross. [Hundreds were killed that way] No atonement for our sins, for He is not the Son of God- just an ordinary man!!

A medical fact: a child’s blood is determined by the father. If Jesus was not conceived by the Holy Ghost, God is not the Father. It is ordinary blood without the ability to pay the debt for our sins. Without the atonement, we are LOST! No provision for our salvation.

I talked with a dying man several years ago, and he said to me: “I can believe it all but not the resurrection. I just can’t believe that.” This man was an outstanding member of his church and his community. But, dying with no hope in the resurrection!! Read carefully 1st Corinthians 15:13-14. “But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, AND YOUR FAITH IS ALSO VAIN.”

When someone takes the Name of the LORD our God in vain, do we speak up? Where do we stand on “Thou shalt no kill? Thou shalt not commit adultery? Thou shalt not steal? [This includes the company we work for and the I.R.S.] Thou shalt not bear false witness [lie]? Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife. [An affair?]

Are you one that says “O that’s Old Testament - We’re under grace!” Consider Luke 24:25-27 when Jesus joins the two apostles on the road to Emmaus. As He talks with them about Himself, He finally says to them. “O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded [explained] unto them in all the Scriptures, the things concerning Himself. All Old Testament!

In 1st Corinthians 10, Paul tells us Israel is a warning to us. An example to heed! Note v.6 “Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should NOT LUST [desire] after evil things, as they also lusted.”

How much of this world’s “stuff” do you desire?

When the subject of abortion comes up, or political candidate says, "I'm pro-choice." Where is your voice? Where is your vote? Do you declare it to be MURDER? Well, that's a bit strange!! Is it? Read the LORD'S Word to Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; [Heb. Had in mind who you would be] and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee [set you apart] and I ordained thee [assigned you to] a prophet unto the nations."

Does that sound like God is having a conversation with a blob of tissue? Read what Isaiah 49:1-5 has to say about this! I wonder if among the millions of aborted babies, is one who would have discovered the cure for cancer!?

Are you telling others the reality of Heaven and Hell?

HEAVEN: An actual place where the inhabitants are God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Angels, and God's people. Hebrews 12:12-13. Notice these "made perfect" by the blood of Jesus.

HELL: An actual place of eternal torment. The Bible describes it as everlasting fire. Matthew 25:41

A place of eternal punishment. Matthew 25:46

A place of outer darkness. Matthew 8:12.

A place of everlasting destruction, from the Presence of the LORD. 2 Thessalonians 1:9

A Lake of Fire; Revelation 19:20.

Notice who will be there.

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These BOTH were cast alive INTO A Lake of Fire burning with brimstone." Rev.19:20..."The FEARFUL, and UNBELIEVING, and the ABOMINABLE, and MURDERERS, and WHOREMONGERS, and SORCERERS, And IDOLATORS, and ALL LIARS shall have their part in the LAKE which burneth with FIRE and BRIMSTONE"... Rev.21:8

Beloved, it is time for "the church" to get back to basics.

If your church is not making clear the "Born Again" message of Salvation, and the "BASICS of the GOSPEL", find one that does. You cannot "grow" in Christ without the basics of the Gospel. Paul knew this, and his constant cry in his Epistles, was HATE SIN. Stay close to the LORD and stand firm in His Word.

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