

2008 A Year of Restoration

Huh?

Hmmm...

A man with the vision of God is not devoted simply to a cause or a particular issue but to God himself. Oswald Chambers (1874–1917)

2007 was a year of transformation for us. Attitudes about prayer, the lost, and the miraculous.

By-laws have been approved and we have been approved for General Council affiliation with the Assemblies.

2008 is going to be a year of restoration for Real World and its people.

The dictionary defines restoration as

Restoration - the act of restoring something or someone to a satisfactory state

As I began to look in the NT I found several examples throughout

James 5:15

15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

sozo sode'-zo: to save, i.e. deliver or protect -- heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole, restore.

Galatians 6:1

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

katartizo kat-ar-tid'-zo: to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair or adjust -- fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect(-ly join together), prepare, restore.

I found a lot of examples of things being restored. You can restore 150 year old hard wood floors

You can restore environmental damage

You can restore engines like this 1972 Oldsmobile 350 (grunt)

You can restore old buildings like this church in Endinburgh, England

And what was interesting in each of these examples is that for each act of restoration the finished product was in some ways the same as the original and in some ways better than the original.

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Two examples of this has happened recently in our church.

Shannon and Eve's singing voice.

What does God want to restore in each of us this year?

Things we have to do to get ready for the process (preparation):

1. Admit to ourselves and God that something is missing or has been taken.
John 10:10 the devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. Everything in you that is God-centered.
He's going to do that one of two ways. Ignorance or Stupidity
Pastor Jim isn't calling me stupid is he?
2. Be willing to allow God to do it
Having a lost dream or vision restored can be a scary thing for some of us.
After all, I've gotten used to the fact that that vision is simply not going to happen
There may need to be some healing to take place in us which may mean that we might have to open some old wounds.
For some of us there may be some spiritual warfare in taking back what the enemy has stolen.
7 times as much to give back.
Whatever the case, we have to position ourselves to receive what God is to restore to us. (fast ball and a catcher)
3. Be willing to see God's vision accomplished in us rather than our own.
When a work of art is restored it looks better sometimes than the original.
Eve's singing voice is for a new purpose now
Your original purpose may not be why God is bringing restoration.
We have to be willing to see the big picture.

Katartizo occurs 14 times in the new testament.

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First in Matthew 4:21

Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, **mending** their nets; and He called them.

1 Peter 5:10

10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself **perfect**, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

Let's stand

What does God want to restore in you this year?

Perhaps you, like this painting have gotten the stain of your surrounding environment on you and you just need God to come in and Katartizo you.