



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

RELATIONSHIP RECOVERY

(Part 1 Relationship Series)

Sis. Techie "Soar" M. Rodriguez, Elder-Founder, TLF
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We have all sinned and have broken our relationship with God and with others. Satan has deceived and blinded many with the enticements of this world: the allure of money, power and pleasure (2 Cor. 4: 4). But, God, in His loving grace and mercy, wants to restore our relationship with Him. He will restore everything that has been stolen from us.

1. THE MISSION OF JESUS

To restore our relationship with God, Jesus left His divinity and became Man. In Luke 4: 18-19, Jesus stated that He was sent to bring glad tidings to the poor, free the prisoners, give sight to the blind, release the oppressed and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Jesus, indeed, preached the good news of salvation, proclaimed freedom from sin, Satan and death. He healed the sick, raised the dead, turned water into wine, fed multitudes of men and freed those who were oppressed. He gave His life for our redemption. Today, there is much spiritual, moral and economic poverty. Many are still prisoners of the devil, sin and vices. Many are oppressed, distressed, and grieving. However, for us, there is always hope.

2. WHAT DID GOD DO IN THE BEGINNING?

- 2.1. God revealed the value of life (Gen. 2:7). Life is important to God and He gave this precious gift to us (Gen. 1: 26). We need to recover our relationship with God no matter how many times we fail. When we feel worthless, we must remember that God is willing and ready to work within us.
- 2.2. God revealed the value of work (Gen. 2:15). God put Adam to work and gave him responsibility for the garden. 2 Thes. 3:10 reminds us that we too need to work. We are stewards of God's manifold gifts.
- 2.3. God revealed the value of boundaries (Gen. 2: 16-17). God prohibited Adam from eating

from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. When we establish a relationship with God, we will know what pleases Him and what He abhors. As children of God, we need to set boundaries to please God.

- 2.4 God revealed the value of companionship (Gen. 2: 18-23). God created Eve to be Adam's companion because He knows that "it is not good for man to be alone".
- 2.5 God revealed the paths of destruction (Gen. 3: 8-13). Adam and Eve failed to heed God's warning. Consequently, they hid from God due to fear of judgement. We, too, are overcome by guilt and shame when we sin. Nonetheless, our God is a God of Recovery and He is always willing to forgive us if we repent.
- 2.6 God revealed the necessity of grace (Eph. 2: 1-10). Sin entered the world because of Adam's and Eve's disobedience. However, by God's grace, we have been saved. God reached out to man with grace because of His great love for us. God is looking to restore us from our shattered lives.

3. GOD IS A RESTORER.

God is a Restorer of relationships (2 Cor. 5: 16; Gal. 6: 1), of broken fellowships (John 21: 15-17), of weakened health (Jer. 30: 17), of lost fortunes (Job 42: 10; Zech. 9: 12; Joel 2: 25), wrecked homes (Lk. 15: 20-24), withdrawn hearts (Ps. 51: 10), and of worthless hunger (Jn. 8: 3 and 2-35).

CONCLUSION: Human nature is sinful. Through God's grace and mercy, we can restore our relationship with Him. Christ's death and resurrection does not automatically restore the relationship between us and God. We must respond personally, sincerely and commit to turn away from our sin.

REFLECTION: Ponder on your past life. How has God restored you?

Scribes Ministry:

Transcriber/Writer: Sis. Te Florentino

Edited by: Sis. Jo Advincula

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