

The Purpose Of The Church

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Part 2 — RESTORATION

The multifaceted purpose of the Church can be summarized in four great activities: to reach the lost, to restore broken lives, to equip people for fruitful ministry and, as a Church, to extend out into His Harvest field.

Last week we read about reaching the lost. Although not everyone is ready to receive Christ, we can always “scatter seed” with God’s love. John 1:35-50 reveals how Jesus’ disciples used the “Come and see method.” This week we will look at restoring those whom God brings to salvation.

“Loose him and let him go.”

1. When Jesus raised His friend, Lazarus, from the dead (John 11:43-44), He specifically asked His disciples to loose him from his graveclothes. Salvation is bringing people to Jesus (Come and see). Restoring people who come to God is a partnership by unwrapping their “graveclothes.”



2. Most people who come to Christ carry the brokenness of a life lived outside the blessings of God. Some may need deep deliverance from life controlling addictions. The Church has the answer through the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14-21)!

Rebuilding our personality

1. “Rebuilding the Real You,” by Jack Hayford, uses the book of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem’s wall as a model for the Spirit’s work in “rebuilding” the person who has come to Christ. When the Jewish people were led back from captivity, they first rebuilt the Temple. Then, when Nehemiah led the third group to Jerusalem, they began to rebuild the wall (with *much* opposition from the Gentile leaders living in Jerusalem!).

- A. Nehemiah's name meant Comfort of God. Read John 14:16-18, 15:26-27, 16:7-12 where the Holy Spirit is called the Comforter.
2. When people come to Christ, the Temple (salvation) is built in their hearts but the walls of their personality may be in ruins or broken down. This rebuilding process is carefully done by the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.
3. The three main areas of our personality where the Holy Spirit's restoration occurs...
 - A. Our mind, our thoughts, reasoning processes. Romans 12:2 states that we are transformed by the renewing of our mind/thought life. This transformation is experienced as the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God *and* our application.
 - B. Our emotions, feelings. 2 Timothy 1:7 (fear) and Philippians 4:6-7 (anxiety) teaches us to cast our emotions on Him through prayer.
 - C. Our will, actions based on our thoughts and feelings. Galatians 5:16-17 teaches us that if we walk after/with and in step with the Holy Spirit we *will not* walk after the acts of the flesh.
4. Three important steps you can do...
 - A. Aim for victory but expect failures along the way. Failure is NOT fatal when we choose not to quit!
 - B. Each time you fail, get up, go directly to God, receive His forgiveness, and keep going. There's NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).
 - Condemnation is giving strength to our sin through guilt. Christ overcame the Law with forgiveness from the cross.
 - C. Fill the void (areas where God has set you free) with submission to His Word and fellowship with His people.
 - D. Give yourself grace and be accountable.