

**Intro:** Anyone remember this?

When I was in Bible college there was a national mass media evangelistic campaign. "I found it!"

Bill boards, newspaper adds, TV commercials, Bumper stickers, Buttons on your shirt.

*"I found it!"*

That was all it said: The idea was, people would see the advertisement, have their interest piqued, and when saw you: ASK  
Then you would have the opportunity to share with them what it was you found...Peace and forgiveness in knowing Jesus

It was a great campaign...In fact, I went back and looked it up, was run by Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) 70's 3.5 mill  
Only one issue...For many of us...we didn't find anything...because we weren't looking!

I was NEVER looking for God...He came looking for me...and without that...I would have never known Him!

**Better: IT FOUND ME!!!**

That is what David is saying to us in the part of Psalm 23 we are looking at tonight. Vs 3 says, "*He (God) restores my soul!*"  
When you look at that carefully, there are 3 thoughts that immediately come to mind, as David talks to us about God's work

### **1. God Is The One That "Fixes" Us Spiritually!**

Psm 23:3

You would think that would go without saying, but we often forget it: There are some things that ONLY God can do!  
Unfortunately we sometimes forget that. We believe...and often ACT as if WE can fix the spiritual problems in our lives  
We Can't: There are some things that ONLY God can do...and the Restoration of a Soul is one of them!

**HE restores our Soul:** He does that...because Only He can! That is spiritual work and only the Spirit of God can accomplish it

That is what I felt when I was trying to process the "*I Found It Campaign*"

There wasn't anything WRONG with it...God Used it...But the Reality is that "No one seeks after God!"

Ro 3:11 "*there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.*"

This issue of Spiritual Restoration...Spiritual Renewal...It is a GOD work from beginning to End!

There is a beautiful expression of this truth in the NT. It comes from the Apostle Paul, Rom

*"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:*

*While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Rom 5:6-8*

**APPLIC:** Here is the first truth: Spiritual problems require a spiritual solution. A soul that needs restoration: God Work!  
Only He can do it, and when we try to take that on ourselves, we are destined for failure. We NEED Him  
From Beginning to End the "restoration" process in our life is a God thing. We need to simply trust that He will do his work.

### **2. Soul Restoration Takes On Many Different Expressions!**

We tend to think of this work of God in singular expressions, when the reality is it takes on many different forms!

This word for Restore...The 12<sup>th</sup> most common verb in the Hebrew OT...Used over 1000 times...in all different kinds of ways  
There are 3 different ways that I want to focus on with you tonight...because I think they cover this concept the best

➤ **Restore:** *To make something what it used to be, was created or made to be; to fix or to heal*

**Applic:** We all need that sometimes. Life so beats us up that we find ourselves far from what we were created to be, and far from what we want to be. We try to get it right..we try to fix it...but we can't...and so we need God's help  
NT has a corollary: Mt 4:21 "Preparing/Mending nets "Bring back, repair, restore, make like new again!"

**Illus:** I think of what I see when I look at what is called a "frame off restoration" of a car!

*"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." 1 Peter 5:10*

**Return:** *To bring something back to a previous place or state; to restore to former place of blessing*

Used most often in this way of return to the Promised Land after exile:

Think of the spiritual work in the Garden of Eden after that first sin...

Remember what happened as a result of their sin? They were driven from the Garden...away from the presence and blessing of God. They were turned out from the Garden, a curse was pronounced...not allowed back in!

Yet, in the work of the Old Covenant, and through the final work of Jesus, God is restoring mankind to relationship with Himself: Like Adam and Eve, hiding in the Garden...we sometimes want to hide from Him...and he seeks us out! Rom: While we were yet sinners! Think about it: HE DIDN'T WAIT!

**John 3:16:** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..VS 17 God SENT His Son so we saved*  
Yes we were hiding...but He is intent on returning us to that relationship in the Garden: ANY TIME WE WANT

- Refresh: *To bring back life and vitality that has been drained away*  
Jer 31:25 *"I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint."*

God says to us, I will refresh you, give you what has been torn away from you bit by bit!

He REFRESHES our Soul. You see, that is the reality of what God does for us when we spend time with Him.

Illus: Woman at the Well: Needed something...she was searching: 7 husbands...7 relationships...

There was an unquenchable thirst in her...and yet try as she would...it could not be satisfied.

WE are often more like the woman at the well than we want to admit

Like her, we are spiritually "thirsty" Constantly looking for something....and never finding what satisfies

Jesus said...drink of the water I will give you...Let me bring back to you the vitality you need...crave

*Mt 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*

### 3. Soul Restoration is Different From Every Other Kind of Healing. MY SOUL!

When we are soul tired...sleep isn't going to help us

When we are soul tired...a vacation isn't going to help

When we are soul tired...a day off, a week at the beach, a good nights sleep and a great meal with a massage won't help

When you are soul tired...Worn out...Worn Down...Beat down, torn up and full of holes in your spirit...Only God can help!

- It isn't Physical
- It isn't Emotional
- It is Spiritual...and Only a Spiritual solution will help.

Ps 63:1 O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

### CONCL:

This week as I was thinking and praying about it, I thought...how can I express this in the best possible way

The words to an Old Hymn came to mind...So I Asked Jeff and Eileen to see if they could help us sing it

*Mt 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*

Read the Lyrics

*All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain  
Who has born all our sin and has cleansed every stain  
Revive us again, fill our hearts with Your love  
And may our souls be rekindled with fire from above*

IF that is what you need, take this time in the silence to come to Jesus...lift up your soul, ask him to restore, renew, revive

Come to Him in Silence

Come to Him in Faith

Come to Him in stillness

Come to Him, lift up your soul to Him...Ask Him For the rest you need

Do Communion differently tonight:

Sit quietly...take a moment and ask God for what you need.

Then...come when you are ready...

Take a time of silence...

Then, when Jeff and Eileen sing, as you feel led come

- Restore: Fix some holes...Patch some rust, repair some broken parts
- Return: Do you need to go back to a previous place...previous relationship? Renew your first love?
- Revive: Are you thirsty...spiritually empty...and you need a touch from HIM....