

Women & More

God Is in the “Re” Business

23 February 2012

Jesus Christ died on the cross—redeeming and reconciling us to God when we accept his gift of Salvation. And this One who died as our substitute now lives as our advocate—renewing us daily.

“Sensitivity to reproof is the surest sign we needed it—correction will not make us any more humble than it finds us.”

Fenelon

“What He has chosen for my most significant witness was not my triumphs or victories, but my defeat.”

Chuck Colson

Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:

Psalm 85:6

Proverbs 4:27

Isaiah 57:15

2 Corinthians 4:16

James 1:13

Scripture to Memorize:

Titus 3:5 *“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit....”*

NOTES on Speaking Session:

Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:

1. Take time to **reflect** on your **redemption** and **reconciliation** to God through Christ. Be prepared to **review** your story with your small group—write it out briefly below.

2. What are some burdens you need to take to the Lord today so that he can **renew** and **restore** and **refresh** you?

3. What keeps you from turning to God immediately for forgiveness and **restoration**?

Recommended Reading:

Abba's Child, Brennan Manning
In The Grip of Grace, Max Lucado
Living Free, Beth Moore

The Twelve Steps

This version of the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous is from *The Twelve Steps—A Spiritual Journey* (San Diego: Recovery Publications, 1988).

Step One - We admitted we were powerless over our separation from God—that our lives had become unmanageable.

“I know nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out” (Romans 7:18).

Step Two - Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purposes” (Phil 2:13).

Step Three - Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.

“Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—which is your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1).

Step Four - Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

“Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord” (Lamentations 3:40).

Step Five - Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed” (James 5:15a).

Step Six - Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up” (James 4:10).

Step Seven - Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Step Eight - Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

“Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31).

Step Nine - Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:23-24).

Step Ten - Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Step Eleven - Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Colossians 3:16a).

Step Twelve - Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted” (Galatians 6:1).

• God’s “Re” Business (not exhaustive):

- Reaches**— Psalm 36:5—“*Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,*”
- Reasons**— John 12:27—“*for this very reason I came to this hour.*”
- Reconciles**—Eph 2:16—“*to reconcile both of them to God through the cross*”
2 Corinthians 5:18—“*who reconciles us to himself through Christ*”
- Redeems**— Psalm 49:15—“*But God will redeem my life from the grave,*”
Psalm 103:4—“*who redeems your life from the pit*”
Titus 2:14—“*to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify*”
- Refreshes**— Jeremiah 31:25—“*I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.*”
- Reigns**— Psalm 9:7—“*The LORD reigns forever;*”
Revelation 19:6—“*For our Lord God Almighty reigns.*”
- Reiterates**— **Ephesians 1:9** Throughout Scripture, God reiterates His purposes!
- Releases**— Romans 7:6—“*We have been released from the law so*”
- Relents**— Joel 2:13/Jonah 4:2—“*God who relents from sending calamity.*”
- Remains**— 1 Corinthians 13:13—“*these three remain: faith, hope and love.*”
2 Timothy 2:13—“*if we are faithless, he will remain faithful....*”
- Remembers**—Psalm 103:14—“*He remembers that we are dust.*”
Psalm 115:12—“*the LORD remembers us and will bless us:*”
- Reminds**— John 14:26—“*will teach you all things and will remind you of*”
- Removes**— Isaiah 25:8—“*he will remove the disgrace of his people*”
- Renews**— Ruth 4:15—“*He will renew your life and sustain you.*”
Isaiah 40:31—“*who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.*”
Titus 3:5—“*through the washing of rebirth and renewal by*”
- Rescues**— Psalm 91:14—“*I will rescue him....*”
- Restores**— Psalm 51:12—“**Restore to me the joy of your salvation**”
Isaiah 58:12—“**Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.**”
Acts 3:21—“*the time comes for God to restore everything,*”
1 Peter 5:10—“*will himself restore you and make you strong,*”
- Rests**— Genesis 2:2-3—“*on the seventh day he rested from all his work,*
3—*on it he rested from all the work of creating*”
- Returns**— Luke 12:43—“*the master finds doing so when he returns*”
John 20:17—“*I am returning to my Father and your Father,*”
- Revives**— Isaiah 57:15—“*to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.*”
- Rewards**— Psalm 62:12—“*Surely you will reward each person*”
Revelation 22:12—“*I am coming soon! My reward is with me,*”
- God as:
- Refiner**— Malachi 3:2-3—“*he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. 3—He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.*”
- Refuge**— Ps 46:1—“*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help*”
Psalm 91:2—“*I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge’*”
- Revealer**— Daniel 2:29—“*the revealer of mysteries showed you what is*”

• Believers are in the ‘family business’—we are to:

- Reach**— Acts 17:27—“*and perhaps reach out for him and find him,*”
- Read**— Revelation 1:3—“*The one who reads the words of this prophecy,*”
- Realize**— John 14:20—“*that day you will realize that I am in my Father,*”
- Reap**— Proverbs 11:18—“*who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.*”
- Reason**— Isaiah 1:18—“*Come now, let us reason together,*”
- Rebirth**— Titus 3:5—“*through the washing of rebirth and renewal by*”
- Recall**— 2 Peter 3:2—“*I want you to recall the words spoken in the*”
- Receive**— 1 Timothy 1:16—“*believe on him and receive eternal life.*”
1 John 3:22—“*and receive from him anything we ask,*”
- Recite**— Judges 5:11—“*they recite the righteous acts of the LORD,*”
Psalm 45:1—“*a noble theme, as I recite my verses for the King;*”
- Recognize**—Matthew 7:20—“*Thus by their fruit you will recognize them*”
1 John 4:2—“*This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God:*”
- Reconcile**—Matthew 5:24—“*First go and be reconciled to your brother;*”
Luke 12:58—“*try hard to be reconciled to him on the way,*”
2 Corinthians 5:18-19—“*and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 19—he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*”
- Recount**— Psalm 79:13—“*to generation we will recount your praise.*”
- Reflect**— 2 Timothy 2:7—“*Reflect on what I am saying,*”
- Reform**— Jeremiah 26:13—“*Now reform your ways and your actions*”
- Refrain**— Psalm 37:8—“*Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;*”
- Rejoice**— Luke 1:47—“*and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*”
Revelation 19:7—“*Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!*”
- Rely**— Psalm 71:6—“*From birth I have relied on you;*”
1 John 4:16—“*we know and rely on the love God has for us.*”
- Remain**— John 15:9-10—“*remain in my love. 10—you will remain in my love*”
Revelation 14:12—“*and remain faithful to Jesus.*”
- Remind**— Genesis 41:9—“*today I am reminded of my shortcomings*”
- Repent**— Mark 1:15—“*Repent and believe the good news!*”
Luke 13:3 and 5—“*But unless you repent, you too will all perish*”
Acts 17:30—“*he commands all people everywhere to repent*”
Revelation 3:19—“*So be earnest, and repent.*”
- Respond**— Acts 16:14—“*the Lord opened her heart to respond to*”
- Restore**— Galatians 6:1—“*you who are spiritual should restore him gently.*”
- Return**— Ecclesiastes 12:7—“*and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*”
Malachi 3:7—“*Return to me, and I will return to you.*”
Joel 2:12-13—“*return to me with all your heart. 13—Return to the Lord your God,*”
1 Peter 2:25—“*but now you have returned to the Shepherd.*”
- Revere**— Deuteronomy 14:23—“*to revere the LORD your God always.*”