

A Key To Recovery

Love One Another

John 13:33

John 13:33 Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You shall seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, I now say to you also, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

John 13:34-35

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

What's Going On?

- World in crisis: locally, nationally & internationally
- *The church is in a crisis*
- People are scared: What's going on? Where's God?
- *Why is all this happening?*
- What's God doing or what's God's way in these days?

What is God's Way in This Hour?

- Crying out very loudly for His church to wake up
- *God's way is to recover of the testimony of Jesus*
- Christianity in general is in a weakened condition
- *Therefore, evil prevails: Evil of sin, self, world & Satan*
- God's crying out for His testimony to be recovered

What is the Testimony of Jesus?

The reality of the headship of Jesus being lived out,
expressed through the lives of His people
individually & corporately.

*The life of Christ, the power of God, the love of God,
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
seen in the lives of His people.*

How is the Testimony of Jesus Recovered?

First, it's essential for our hearts to be recovered

Hearts open to see the true condition of God's people

Hearts open to see afresh God's heart for His people

Old Testament Example

- Israel was taken into Babylonian captivity
- *God sovereignly moved through King Cyrus*
- Freedom for Jews to return to Jerusalem
- *Ezra & Nehemiah: the historical books of recovery*
- Haggai, Zech, & Malachi: the prophets of recovery

Daniel: A Vessel of Recovery

- Work of recovery started in the heart of Daniel
- *Even though in Babylon, his heart was in Jerusalem*
- Always had a heart for God's purpose for His people
- *Reading Word of God: Jeremiah (70 years captivity)*
- Led by Holy Spirit, enters into travailing prayer

Daniel's Travailing Prayer

Humbles himself before the Lord, confesses the sins of the people, acknowledges only the Lord is righteous

Daniel 9:19 *O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.*

Keys to Recovery

- In Daniel, we see some of the keys to recovery
- *In no specific order & not comprehensive:*

Grace of God

Work of the Holy Spirit

Word of God

Travailing prayers

Reality

Overcomers

LOVE

Two-fold Aspect of His Recovery Work

- In Ezra & Nehemiah, God takes action
- *God's sovereign hand turns the heart of King Cyrus*
- Whoever's spirit/heart is stirred can return to Jerusalem
- *Why? One purpose to rebuild the house of the Lord*

God's Recovery Work in Ezra

- Returned & built the altar; started rebuilding the house
- *Faced resistance & stopped building*
- God raised up Haggai & Zechariah to encourage them
- *Reponed & completed the rebuilding of the house*
- Then beautified the house by sanctifying their lives

1st Aspect of Recovery: Ezra

- In Ezra the altar & house are rebuilt
- *Speaks of our personal relationship with the Lord*
 - Work of the Cross & under His headship (vertical)
- *Recovery starts & is maintained by our personal heart relationship with the Lord & His Word.*

God's Recovery Work in Nehemiah

- Nehemiah & others return to rebuild the wall
- *Working together they start rebuilding the wall*
- Face continued, consistent & growing opposition
- *Through prayer they rise up & complete the wall*
- Finally, their life together in the city is purified

2nd Aspect of Recovery: Nehemiah

- Ezra: Individual relationships with the Lord restored
- *Nehemiah: Relationships with one another restored*
- Ezra: Testimony: love for the Lord (vertical)
- *Nehemiah: Testimony: love for one another (horizontal)*

Why are Both Aspects Vital for Recovery?

- Brings us back to seeing the testimony of Jesus!
- *The manifestation of His headship in His people.*
- His testimony of His love for His Father & His purpose
- *What is that purpose? A bride for His Son!*

How is the Bride Made Ready?

- By loving the Lord with all our heart AND
- *By loving the brethren as He has loved us*

This liberates the Holy Spirit to work in us
to perfect our relationship with Him &
with one another as He makes His bride ready

Challenge of Loving One Another

- Cannot love one another unless we 1st love the Lord
- *Our personal walk with Him can be a great challenge*
- We have every provision in Christ to overcome these

*But it is an even greater challenge for His people
to walk & dwell together in unity*

Why Such a Challenge?

- Why is it so hard for brethren to love one another?
- *Why is it so hard to dwell together in unity?*
- Not just in word but also in deed & daily life

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*To put it simply: **SELF-LOVE** or*

PRIDE

David's Testimony

David saw when ones were under His headship & allowing the Holy Spirit to do His perfecting work of building them together

There's the blessing: brethren dwelling together in unity

Greater manifestation of His life

Psalm 133

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brothers to dwell together in unity!

2 *It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Coming down upon the beard, Even Aaron's beard,
Coming down upon the edge of his robes.*

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Coming down upon the
mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded
the blessing—life forever.

Sin of Division

- Has done more damage to the church than any other sin
- *Root of the sin of division is that original sin of “pride”*
- In church history pride has done so much damage
- *Not so much doctrines, but self-love & the strong flesh*

The Brethren

- 1825: In Dublin various believers break bread together
- *In the 1800s, the Lord did a great work of recovering:*
 - Universal priesthood of all believers
 - *The unity of the church: the body of Christ*
 - An awareness of Lord's 2nd coming

The Brethren

- Tragically, after 20 years of blessing there was division
- *A conflict arose between two influential brothers:*
 - John Darby & Benjamin Newton
- *Cloaked as a theological issue because there was some misunderstanding which needed to get worked out*

The Brethren

- However, the root cause was their own personalities
- *Both had very different & very strong personalities*
- Neither one was willing humble themselves, take the cross & allow the Lord to show His way through
- *As a result, a tragic division occurred*

God is a God of Recovery

- In history we see awakenings start by a few individuals
- *Ones whose hearts are touched/captured by the Lord*
- Humbling themselves in a spirit of repentance
- *Then with travailing praying for God to*

“Revive Thy work in the midst of years”

Hebrides Islands



Island of Lewis

Hebrides Revival (1949-1953)

- 2 sisters: Peggy (84) & Christine (82) Smith
- *God spoke to them & they started praying*
- Their church prayed several nights a week for months
- *One night the Spirit fell on them & convicted of sin*
- Spirit moved through the Isles & many repented

Hebrides Islands 1949



Hebrides Revival (1949-1953)

- Ones walking down the street would be slain in Spirit
- *Bars were closed*
- Ones went to the sheriff to confess crimes
- *Relationships & marriages restored*
- Continued spreading until 1957 (Isle of North Uist)

One Prayer Meeting

“God’s beginning to move & on our faces before Him”

3 o’clock in the morning came & God swept in.

About 12 or so men & women lay prostrate on the floor

We knew the forces of darkness were going to be driven back & ones set free

We left to discover men & women seeking God.

Ephesians 4:15-16

15 but speaking the truth in love, *we are to grow up in all aspects into Him*, who is the head, *even* Christ,

16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

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Love Builds Up

Reinforced & confirmed in:

1 Corinthians 1:8b

“love edifies” or “builds up”

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BUT

1 Corinthians 8:1a “knowledge puffs up”

What is This Love?

- **God is Love!!**
- *It is the very character & nature of His life*
- **Everything He does originates from a heart of love**
- *A divine, self-sacrificing love*
- **Love of an altogether other nature & purpose**

Message of John 13

- Very private, intimate time with the disciples
- *Last time with them before cross & prays for them*
- **NOTE:** The very 1st thing He speaks to them about!
- *1st thing: Most essential; Main thing-keep it*
- He gives to them is a genuine spiritual treasure

John 17

- “THE Lord’s prayer” or “His High Priestly Prayer”
- *Just as the 1st thing He shared so essential*
- Also, the last thing shared is equally vital & essential
- *He closes His time with them with a specific prayer*

John 17

25 O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me

26 *and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.*

Next Times

First

“Love one another, as I have loved you”

Focusing on: “AS I HAVE LOVED YOU”

Second

“Testimony of Me to all men by your love for one another”

The practical out working of love for one another

Conclusion

- In these days of crisis What is God doing?
- *From Adam's fall, He has been a God of recovery*
- Today He is recovering the Testimony of Jesus
- *The key to recovery starts in the hearts of His people*
- The key we're considering is "loving one another"