

Restoring People Rightly

by Randy Krahn

This sermon emphasizes the importance of humility, repentance, and understanding the fear of the Lord. It delves into the need to examine our own hearts, avoid judgment and pride, and seek God's grace to overcome sin. The speaker shares personal experiences and biblical insights on restoration, bearing one another's burdens, and the consequences of our words and actions.

Scripture: Galatians 6:1, Galatians 6:7, James 4:6, Proverbs 9:10, James 1:19, Matthew 7:1, 1 Peter 5:6, Ecclesiastes 7:9, Proverbs 22:4, Psalm 34:18

Topics: "Humility", "Restoration"

Description

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Transcript

Good morning. I was thinking of reading from Galatians. Galatians chapter 6, verse 1. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass or sin, you who are spiritual or more mature in the Lord, restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted.

Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, then he will have rejoicing in himself alone and not in another, for each one shall bear his own load.

You know, we deal a lot with people of addiction and we have over the years, and we've dealt a lot with people who've fallen into sin, a lot of times sexual sin, and it says that we ourselves have to be careful, lest we also become tempted. Because we are nothing except we stand by grace. And we are something because God calls us something.

He calls those things that are not as though they are. And he takes that which is vile and he's able to make it precious because of his Jesus. And so if we start to think that our own righteousness commends us somehow to God, we can be prone to look down on others.

We can be prone when we deal with people to speak harshly to them, which I have made the mistake of doing at times. You get frustrated with people, you want to see them change. And you think if you speak to

them in a way that they would get an understanding that they can't continue in this behavior from your own self, it doesn't bring about the righteousness of God.

Now a word spoken under the anointing of the Spirit or spoken by the Spirit can change people. But something of our own zeal doesn't change anyone. And we need to be able to distinguish the difference between righteous anger and my own anger.

Because the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. I think a lot of times we don't see how God sees. And so possessing righteous anger is very few and far between.

And I've had to at times meditate on my bed, on my couch, and think about how I responded in a situation. And quite often, what we see as a result of what we think is righteous anger is sin manifesting in our own personal life. And quite often in the very same area where we judge others.

And why is that? He goes on to say, let him who has taught the word, in verse six, share in all things with him who teaches. Verse seven, do not be deceived. This is the main point.

God is not mocked. For what a man sows that he shall reap. If he sows to his flesh, he will of the flesh reap corruption.

But if he sows to the Spirit, he will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

We need to respond the way Jesus responds when he speaks to people when he was on the earth. He spoke in a certain way with the sinners, and he spoke in another way with the Pharisees, the religious people who seemingly knew the word. And we need to respond that way in our dealing with people.

So when you see somebody smoking, maybe on your deck or whatever next to your apartment, you respond with mercy and compassion because that is that man's nature. He's a dog. He doesn't know Christ.

He needs to know that you love Christ and that he sees the life of Christ in you so that he would be attracted to your Jesus. And when you see a pastor and he's screaming at his kids and his family or whatever he's doing, as Brother Aleem shared some of, and he comes and he comes and corrects you about your anger and about your bad attitude that he spots or he has discernment on, Jesus spoke in a certain way to them. He says, you blind guys, you hypocrites.

And then he says to the people, do as they say, but don't do as they do because they say, but do not do. They don't practice what they preach. Now, I believe that we're in progress, and I believe that we're not perfected yet.

And I believe that God is working with us. And I believe that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, even pastors. But the main point is, can we humble ourselves when we acknowledge that we were wrong or that we sinned or that we fell short? And God is looking for the spirit of humility.

And if we cannot humble ourselves, then we can expect to be judged because what a man sows, that he shall also reap. If you're hard on others, then God will allow others or God himself will be hard on you, as Jesus was with the Pharisees. If you're compassionate with others and merciful to others, then God will be

merciful and compassionate with you when you're struggling or if you sin.

Not when you sin, but if you sin. We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous, and he's able to sympathize with us and our weaknesses. And he's able to help us if we come to him and we call on his name.

Now, there's another scripture that says, judge not and you will not be judged. Condemn not and you will not be condemned. Give and it shall be given to you.

Press down, shaking together and running over will be poured into your bosom. Now, I know most preachers use that certain passage about give and it shall be given in terms of offerings, in terms of tithing. But if we look in the passage in that context, it has to do with judging, condemning, and giving.

How many of you sometimes just want to give somebody a piece of your mind? Because you judge them, in your heart you've condemned them, and in the process you want to give it to them. Now, most of us don't physically give people beatings. Some of us maybe have.

But you know what? The measure you use will get measured back to you. Press down, shake it together, and running over is going to be poured into your bosom. Why? Because God loves us.

And if we're believers and we're professing his name, the measure you use is going to get measured back to us. But it's a principle like gravity. It happens with others as well.

Some people's judgment is down, namely us as Christians. Other people's judgment comes down the road. Why? And we need to understand that what every man sows, what every woman sows, there's a reaping of the things that were sown according to the flesh.

And so if you mock people, if you make fun of people, you joke about people, there's a time coming when you yourselves will be mocked. And if you're not mocked by others, then God will mock you and laugh at your calamity when it comes upon you suddenly. As the scripture says, a man who is often rebuked by the Lord and hardens his neck, then suddenly a torrent will come, a whirlwind will come into his life, and God will laugh at your calamity, and he'll mock when your terror comes.

And then you'll call to him and he's not going to answer you. Because when he called, you refused. And so now is your time to bear your judgment, whoever you are.

And this is why we need the fear of the Lord. It's a key. You know, you come to your house, you want to get in your house, after you've been away, you pull out your key.

I've done it before in the dark, fidgeting through the keys, and you're trying to find and you're putting the wrong ones in. And then finally, you get your phone out. Ah, I got the right key, put it into the door, you open it up.

And when you're tired, and you get groceries and whatever, it's frustrating. And sometimes in a Christian life, we go through different things, trying to find a way to find the answer to so that we can move forward with the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the key to unlock wisdom, to unlock knowledge, and to unlock understanding in your life about the will of God.

You say, well, which way should I go? The Holy Spirit is speaking through the word, through the fear of the Lord. Wisdom, this is wisdom. This is the way walk in it.

And we get knowledge and understanding as we begin to take steps of faith to walk according to the convictions of the Spirit and the word, if we have understanding of it. It talks about Jesus. I believe it's in Isaiah 11.

I can't be sure at this second, I haven't read it. But he talks about the seven spirits there. Six are listed.

The one that's not listed is the Holy Spirit, which is understood. The spirit of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, might, counsel. Holiness obviously is in there, and the fear of the Lord.

And it says, His delight, if you had to choose one of them all, is the fear of the Lord. It unlocks all the other things. It encapsules all the other things.

And so we need to take heed to what in Hebrew is called Aharit. What will it be in the final end? What will it be in the end? If I take this decision, and I choose not the fear of the Lord, what will the outcome be for me and for my household? Joshua said, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. And all the children of Israel said what? Yes, we will also.

And Joshua had the spirit of understanding in him. And he said, the Lord showed me you won't. You say, but you will not do.

You will confess that you will, but your actions will prove that you don't. You honor Him with your lips, but God showed me your hearts are so far from God. What will it be in the final end? What will it be in the final end for the children of Israel? Bondage? Babylon? The judges time and time again? Amalekites? Canaanites? Hivites? Hittites? Because of compromise and disobedience by not choosing the fear of the Lord.

My grandmother told me a story when I was 12 years old. I would go to her house and I guess I was 11 turning 12. And we picked raspberries this one summer.

And she taught me how to work. I was a bit of a lazy fella. And I didn't like commitment.

I wanted to play. And I would sneak away and do my thing. And I spent time with my grandmother and she taught me something for two weeks about being committed, getting up at a certain time, working all day, stopping for lunch and all that.

And she told me, what you sow you're going to reap. And if you sow laziness, then in the end, that's how you're going to be remembered as someone who's lazy. If you are foolish, then you'll be remembered as someone who's foolish.

But if you purpose in your heart to become wise, like Solomon chose, that he would rather pursue wisdom rather than wealth, then in the end, God will honor that. So we set our course, people. And the way that you set your course will determine where you end up.

You're a harit. My grandmother said when she was in high school, in school, she used to mock this boy. He had large ears.

And she told me this story when I was young, and I remembered it. And she used to call him cabbage ears. And she'd make fun of him in front of the other kids.

And when her first son was born, his name is Jonatho. He's a pastor. He was born with very large ears.

And she remembered how she mocked that boy. And she said, what I sowed, I'm reaping. And every time she told me she looks at the boy, she remembers her sin.

And the harit of how it was in the end. I think of my own life and decisions that I've taken along the way as a firstborn child, in running away from God, and going my own way and living for the flesh. A man who sows to the flesh will of the flesh reap corruption.

I don't have to look too far back to remember, and it's good to remember, things to remember, that those decisions costed me very dearly, even to this day. But there's mercy and forgiveness with God. And so it doesn't matter to what measure God has given us His grace, and what measure of grace is manifested in our life through the gifts of the Spirit and through the fruit of the Spirit.

When we deal with people, when we talk about people, when we interact in ministry, whatever ministry that is, we all have a diversity of ministries. We need to think about this. If a man is overtaken or a woman in a trespass, you who are spiritual, if we understand the fear of the Lord, if we understand the aharit of the matter, then we will deal from a position of humility, from a position of spiritual authority, from a bottom-up position.

We'll be able to identify with them in their weaknesses, because we also have suffered things. We'll be able to speak to them in a right way, to see the desired goal, which is to see people get free from those trespasses, to see people overcome, to help them and strengthen them along the way. It says, lest you also, or consider yourself lest you be tempted.

There was a time when we were dealing with someone who was so-called brother is a perpetual liar. Someone I respected, I didn't know that, and all of a sudden I got light on it, and I went and confronted them. I just absolutely screamed at that person, because I thought they deserved it.

It seemed right to me at the time. Then what I did, the person was in somewhat of a position of authority, so I figured it says, if you're an authority, you can expose these type of people publicly, according to scripture. I went to the front, and I didn't use the person by name, but I exposed that person's sin about their lying, and how someone in that kind of position could do that kind of lying is just absolutely beyond me, and I was angry in my sharing.

I want to tell you that that week, someone asked me something, and I lied about it, and I remembered all those words that I spoke, and all those things that I preached about, and all those things I said, because God is not mocked. The measure you judge, and the measure you use, you're condemning, will get measured back to you. Press down, shaken together, running over.

Why did I lie? Because I wanted to look better to someone else who asked me about something than I really was. I wanted to hold to my integrity. I wanted to hold to my righteousness.

I wanted to hold up my standard of how people viewed me, and I didn't want to be honest about something, and I lied about it to make myself look good, and the moment I did that, I was convicted thoroughly, because we have to be careful. We stand by grace, not because of our own righteousness, our own power, our own zeal. We stand because God causes us to stand.

He says, and having done all to stand, stand therefore, for God is opposed to who? The proud, and if you're proud, you're going to find yourself stumbling, because pride comes before the fall, and haughtiness before destruction, but He gives grace to the humble, so humble yourselves under His mighty

hand, so that He can lift you up. Now to Him who is able to keep us from falling, and present us faultless before Him in love, and He's able to do exceedingly and abundantly more than we ask, thank hope, or imagine. His grace doesn't fall short.

The reason why His word seems to not be working in your life is not because God's a liar. It's not because His word isn't true. It's because we're proud.

The problem is not with Him. The problem is with me, so when I stand there and say, you're like to me, like an unfaithful stream. The problem is not with God.

The problem is with my heart, and that's when Jeremiah had to humble himself and repent. Even Job had to humble himself before God and repent. When Job was clinging to his integrity, and Jeremiah seeming to do similar things, and God was fishing something out that was deep within.

Not that He would get light on it, but that we would get light on it, so that we could repent and turn from it. Do you purpose in your life every morning you get up, say, Lord please give me light on myself. You know we got plenty of light for everybody around us.

I got plenty of light for my parents, and my mother-in-law, and father-in-law, and all of you. I got plenty of light on that, but I lack light on myself. Nor am I interested in getting light on myself, because that requires something on my part.

And so if I minister, and I don't take heed to myself, lest I also be tempted, then I will not ever become an effective minister. We'll be dealing with an iron fist, and ruling with an authority that is not from God. Paul said that when he was among certain groups, when those who were of wisdom and of knowledge, he was one who could speak knowledge.

And when he was those who were without law, he was also able to be as one without law, but not without law toward God. When we go minister up a decree, I share as though I was one of them. I just come solo.

Those messages that that we preach up there are not fitting to be put online here, because I share my struggles that I had in times past, and of my weaknesses, and I share what God has done. I share the power of God, not to glorify the devil, but I share that I can identify with them, and if God did it for me, God can do it for them. I'm as one without law toward God, but I'm not without law toward God.

Those who are without law, I'm able to identify with them. I'm able to come to that level, to share with them in their struggles, and those men line up to hug me. Why? Because of the genuineness and the sincerity that comes from Christ.

I become of absolutely no reputation that I might gain one. Why? Because that's what Jesus did. He came and he humbled himself, even to the point of death, even the criminal's death on the cross, and they would just accuse him of all kinds of things, but none of which were true, but he allowed it to be so.

Why? For you. He bore a sinner's death, a criminal's death, so that we wouldn't have to, and we are able to sympathize, and so is he, with others, with the same comfort, Paul says. Why are we going through these things? That we ourselves are comforted by God, and so we are pressed on all sides, but not crushed.

We're perplexed, but not in despair. We get struck down, but we're not destroyed. Caring about in this body, always death to the flesh, the dying of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Christ might manifest in our mortal bodies, so we'd no longer be slaves to sin, but slaves of righteousness.

That sin would no longer have dominion over us, because we're not under law, nor bondage. We're under grace. Let grace have its perfect work in you, that you might become complete, lacking nothing, and so when you see these things, you get light on yourself.

Humble yourself. When I go to the creek, when I was up at Wagner, I said to one of the men that was sitting there, I said, all right, it's time for me to go. Three things, and those men repeated it, because they heard it six months ago when they were at the Joshua House.

Humble, humble, and humble. Three things. Don't look down on others.

Don't judge others. We're not judges. We might have judgments, but our judgment has to be just.

We pray for people. We want to see people overcome. If God gives us light, it's for the purpose of prayer, and sometimes to confront.

We don't confront everything. We confront when we see, hey, this is a sin unto death. It's time to confront this, because I don't want to see this person go back to the old life.

It's important to confront. We have to be willing to confront, but it's only when there's sin unto death. The rest of it, we need to pray about.

We need to be in prayer a whole lot more than we are for ourselves and for our others, because that is where God works. God works through prayer. We pray believing, expecting God to bring miracles to pass, and He's able to do it.

You don't want to have a reputation. You don't want to be defined by choices that you took in the flesh, like my grandmother saying, you will be known as someone who is lazy. You don't want to bear that brand.

We want to repent of these things. You know, when Jesus says, you wicked, lazy servant, that man was defined by being lazy. He buried his talent.

He wasn't willing to take a risk by faith. We don't want to bear those kinds of brands. We want to overcome that, and if we get light on ourselves, we can repent.

We can confess it, and we can turn from it, and the Lord will give us grace to overcome it. I remember the time when I used to swear like a sailor. I used to swear F words hundreds a day, and I said, Lord, I don't want to be like this anymore.

I want to change. I can't change. I get so angry, and before I even have a chance to think, these words are just coming, just boiling out of me, this uncleanness, and you said that no unwholesome word proceed out of my mouth, so if these things are proceeding out of my mouth, it says it comes from the heart.

For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks, so I said, Lord Jesus, you have to give me a clean heart, clean hands, and a pure heart, not lifting up my soul to an idol, and I said, Lord Jesus, I need you to take away these swears out of my heart, and you know what he gave me? One second. One second from the time that I got angry when I was first born again in 1998 until the time that the swear

came out was one one thousand. He gave me grace for one one thousand to choose to say or not to say, whereas before it would just boil out, and I couldn't even catch myself.

Now I had a one one thousand. Do you want to say that word or you don't? Oh, I choose not to. Thank you, Jesus.

Thank you, Jesus, for one second of grace to choose or not to say, and you know what? After a few days, the words came less and less in my mind, and after maybe one month, those words didn't come in my mind at all. Since you've purified your souls through obeying the truth through the word of God, which lives and abides forever, our souls need to be purified, and when he gives us grace, we just think, miraculously, it's going to be gone. He wants us to overcome in the trial.

Brother and sister count it all joy when you go through various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience, perseverance. Let patience have its perfect work, so that you might be complete, lacking nothing. We need to overcome.

If you see these areas, I'm not going to call them character flaws. I'm going to call it sin, what it is. We need to repent of these things.

If you see that you just like to laugh and mock at other people's expense, you have to repent of these things, because you're putting yourself above the other person, and God will never bless you in that place. We need to humble ourselves and ask forgiveness and make things right. I have in my spirit a joking nature.

I like to be funny because I like attention, and I have to be careful that I don't allow this thing to manifest. One brother sent me a text a sending out a foolishness, and that's scripture from Ecclesiastes. It says foolishness is like a dead fly in a perfumer's ointment.

Someone respected for wisdom, just a little bit of folly. It will stink to God, and other people will see it, and I've seen it, brother, and it stinks. I start to repent of it.

That isn't who I want to be. It may be who I am apart from Christ, but that's not who I want to be. I want to be clean.

I don't want to have a dead fly in the perfumer's ointment. I don't want to come up here and share the scriptures and have some funnies, a few icebreakers to get everybody laughing. I want to have the anointing of the Holy Spirit when I share, and I want the Holy Spirit to work in people's lives, and I want to see people change, because what God has done for me, I want to pass on to others through the power of his grace.

May the Lord help us to get light on ourselves so that we can become like Christ. I had one brother come to me, and he said, you know, you preach legalism. I said, what do you mean legalism? Preaching the gospel.

He says, no, every time you're raising the bar on me, you're always raising the bar, and just when I attain to something, you make it higher so that I can't attain, and he says, you know what? I give up. I can never become perfect that you want. I said, listen, the scripture says be holy for I'm holy.

It's not my bar. Jesus is the bar. Be perfect for I'm perfect.

I was at a meeting a couple weeks ago. First thing the minister says is God doesn't expect you to be perfect. Okay, well, he knows that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

I understand the principle, but when he says it, it's worth be perfect for I'm perfect. He set a bar and a standard for us to look unto him to be saved, to become like Christ, and if I lower the bar, then I'll never change. I'll never be born again.

I'll never see the sin the way God sees it. I'll just think myself a good person, think myself a great guy. That is not who's going to inherit the kingdom of God.

Great persons and great people and great guys do not inherit the kingdom of God. The humble shall hear of it and be glad. I think it will magnify the Lord with me.

Let us exalt his name together. I think of another scripture. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Have you tasted of his goodness, of his mercy and his compassion and his kindness in your life? Have you seen that he should have slain you? He should have destroyed you in your wickedness, but he had compassion on you and he spared you as a man spares his own son who serves him. That is when you come to know your God. I've seen God show mercy and compassion.

I've also seen his swift judgment. You know, there's a scripture that says, vengeance is mine, I will repay, the Lord will judge his people. I thought of times when I thought to sue people because they cheated me and the Lord told me you don't sue.

You rather let yourself be cheated. You accept wrong. You take the low road.

It's just money and it's never easy for me because I like to win and God says I need to humble myself and allow myself to be cheated, to accept wrong. We had a fellow who brought some woodwork to the property here. We just finished our home last year and this person did it as a terrible job in my opinion and I said, you know what, this time I'm not doing what the word of the Lord says.

This time I'm suing. I paid that person up front, gave them half the money. This time I cannot do what the word of the Lord says.

I have to seek justice here. This is just too much and I wrestled with God for a few days and then I met with this person and this person says it is what it is. You're just going to have to get happy about it and I walked away without getting verbally angry.

I was very upset in my spirit and I said, God, your word says that I'm not supposed to take someone to court, especially someone who's a so-called brother. I am leaving it in your hands. You get justice for me.

I have to say this. It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of living God. The weekend passed and the morning, the tradespeople didn't come.

The next morning, the tradespeople didn't come. My wife called to find out what happened. That man died the next morning.

They found him dead in his apartment and fear came on me. Was it my words? Was it my words? And I said, Lord, who am I? You should have killed me a thousand times over because I'm far more wicked. You know what? By your words you'd be justified and by your words you'd be condemned.

Our words have power. When Peter said to Ananias, you didn't lie to me. You lied to God and he dropped down.

I'm not sure he knew that exactly was going to happen at that moment, but it did happen and God gives us authority and if we are asking him to respond for us like a prayer, he answers. I don't understand these things. That was not my intention and every day when I get up and I see that woodwork, I think and it puts a fear in me.

Every morning it puts a fear in me because I'm reminded of what happened. The fear of the Lord is the key to wisdom, knowledge, and understanding and if we understand what will it be in the final end, the aharit, then we might make different choices before we act or react. May the Lord help you to get light on yourself and to choose the fear of the Lord and three things.

Humility, humility, and humility. Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God so that he can lift you up by his grace, by his spirit, by his power. In Jesus' name, amen.

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