

The Promise of Renewal

(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, January 2, 2022)

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

We have great promises of renewal in Christ Jesus.

Lamentations 3:22-23

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.

23

They are new every morning;
Great *is* Your faithfulness.

Just like many things in Christ's Kingdom, how do we go beyond just the concepts in the Word to actually experiencing those concepts in reality?

1)When things get difficult, we have to re-group, hunker down, and keep letting the Holy Spirit fight through us and for us.

Luke 18:1-8

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, **2** saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor [a]regard man. **3** Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, [b]'Get justice for me from my adversary.' **4** And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, **5** yet because this widow troubles me I will [c]avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "

6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. **7** And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? **8** I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

One example of how to seek God for both personal and corporate renewal is therefore that we should keep seeking Him for that renewal until it manifests.

2) We have talked about this quite a bit recently, but we have to get to the point where we actually live this truth if we are going to be renewed and refreshed.

We have to let the Holy Spirit take our thoughts captive and make them obey Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. **4** For the weapons of our warfare *are* not [a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **5** casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

To facilitate the obedience of our thoughts to Christ, we should fill ourselves with good things that will build us up.

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Remember that what we put into ourselves is what is going to come out.

Luke 6:45

45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil [i]treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

When our thoughts obey Christ, we will walk in repentance. Walking in repentance will bring us times of refreshing.

Acts 3:13-19

13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *Him* go. **14** But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15** and killed the [b]Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. **16** And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith

which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

17 “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. **18** But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. **19** Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

3)Go through anything negative in our past, take the time to forgive, and take the time to let it go.

This is what a big part of deliverance ministry is about.

Part of deliverance is releasing people from demonic oppression or possession. Followers of Christ can only be oppressed by the devil because possession means that the devil totally controls you.

At the same time, another part of deliverance is helping people to lay aside past experiences that are weighing them down.

Hebrews 12:1-2

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking unto Jesus, the [a]author and [b]finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Laying aside past experiences often involves using an intercessor to represent a person who has hurt the person receiving prayer. The person receiving specifically forgives the person who hurt them. Then they renounce any bad feelings that they have toward that person. Even if the person never says they are sorry, the person receiving prayer recognizes that they forgive for their own sake. It is simply not worth it to risk losing one’s salvation because someone else mistreated you.

Mark 11:25-26

25 “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **26** [d]But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

4)Take time out to be refreshed.

Luke 10:38-42

38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. **39** And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at [k]Jesus' feet and heard His word. **40** But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

41 And [l]Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. **42** But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Sometimes we will get tired in our bodies, but the Lord Jesus has promised us rest for our souls.

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am [f]gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

The Lord has also promised us rest for our bodies.

Psalm 127:1-2

Unless the Lord builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the Lord guards the city,
The watchman stays awake in vain.

2

It is vain for you to rise up early,
To sit up late,
To eat the bread of sorrows;
For so He gives His beloved sleep.