

SINGLE ALLIANCE

07/29/07

HE RESTORES MY SOUL

I. Introduction

- A. We have been looking at Psalm 23
- B. We saw that before the Shepherd can minister to us we must follow Him. We must lay down where he tells us to feed. The green pasture is the scripture He is leading us. In that place is the still small voice of the Spirit. It is the place of rhema.
- C. God wants to restore your soul- the word “restore” means to return again and has a context of renewed strength and refreshment.

II. Return

- A. Growing in God has to deal with a constant returning to Him. Our hearts and minds tend to stray off the path. We tend to handle life by ourselves and come to God only in emergencies. Maturity comes when you learn to abide on the path with the Lord.
- B. We must return to the Lord and He will return strength to our soul.
- C. Matthew 11:28-29- Come unto Him and you will find rest to your souls
- D. We are not endless reservoirs of strength. We are often so busy that we give God a wave while we run here and there.
- E. You are like a lap top computer. You need a docking station. This is the place of recharging. It is best if you remain in the docking station!
- F. You must learn to become quiet before the Lord and receive from His Word and Spirit

III. The armor of God

- A. Isaiah 30:15-16- In returning is salvation. In quietness is your soul strengthened.
- B. Israel went to Egypt for help. They said they would flee on fast horses. God said their salvation would be found in returning and quietness to hear from Him.
- C. The enemy has fast horses too! You are no match for the devil in your own strength
- D. Too many are wrestling with Satan instead of using the armor God has given to them to stand their victorious ground
- E. Ephesians 6:10-13- We are not called to wrestle the devil. You are not on God's wrestling team. You are in His army! You are called to be a soldier.
- F. "Wrestle" in ancient Greek was to wrestle naked! Paul was saying that in ourselves we are naked against the devil and all we can do is wrestle with him and if we do that we will get pinned every time!
- G. Because of this Paul said get your armor on! Would you rather be a naked wrestler or armored soldier?
- H. All the armor is based upon the Word of God. The sword of the Spirit is the rhema word of God. Where do you get your armor? From your quiet times with God!

IV. Stay on the path

- A. So often we can drift off the path God has for us and not realize it.
- B. What are some signs you have drifted?
 1. Are you emotionally and spiritually exhausted?

2. Are you touchy?
3. Do you lack peace?
4. Are things worse or the same in your life over the long term? –Prov. 4:18

C. If the answers to these questions are yes, then you need to return to your docking station.

V. Quiet times

- A. I was raised a good Baptist boy. We were taught regularly about having a daily quiet time.
- B. It was taught in a legalistic way- It must be an hour. It must be early in the morning. Etc...
- C. I think that I got burnt out on that and just threw out the whole practice of quiet times with God.
- D. I think Charismatics have put much more emphasis on doing and success principles than on spending time with God in quietness.
- E. We need to return to the quiet times with God but without the legalism attached to it.
- F. Sometimes Jesus rose early to pray. Sometimes He prayed at night. When God beckoned He answered the call to come and rest and be quiet with God.
- G. Ask God for His unique plan for you to spend time with Him.
- H. You will gain the strength and resources to stand in victory by your quiet times with God.
- I. Pray for those who need to start quiet times with God