

“Restoration” Psalm 126

- Psalm 126 is included as one of the Psalms (Songs) of Ascent.

The MEMORY of Restoration. v.1-3

1. The ‘restoration’ of God’s people. v.1a

- NASB: “When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion....” (from Exile)
- ESV: “When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion...”
-‘restore’ or ‘turn again’ (turn around): the LORD turned things completely around.

2. The description of restoration. v.1b-3

- We were like those who dream.... **v.1b**
- Laughter and joy. **v.2a**
- The ‘nations’ start talking. **v.2b** The LORD has done great things for them.
- God’s people affirm. **v.3** The LORD has done great things for us—we are filled with joy!

→ Can you think of a time of “restoration” in your life?

The DESIRE for Restoration. v.4

1. The psalmist asks God to do it again. v.4a

- Identical wording to v.1: ‘restore our fortunes’ or ‘turn around our captivity’ → turn things around again!
- The psalmist finds himself in some sort of trouble, hardship, difficulty, or exile again.

2. The image in the psalmist’s mind: “like streams in the Negeb!” v.4b Negeb = dry land or desert

→ Where do you need restoration again? Will you ask for more?

The WORK of Restoration. v.5-6

→ God CAN & DOES work restoration (“turn things around”), but it does not mean we are passive and do nothing.

1. The spiritual principle. v.5

- Those who sow in tears...shall reap with shouts of joy.
-sow – planting seeds
-reap – gathering the food from the garden, the harvest from the field
- Psalm 30:5: Weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

2. The work of restoration calls us to labor with faithfulness and perseverance. v.6

- A series of contrasts...

going out...	...coming home
weeping...	...shouts of joy
bearing...	...bringing
...the seed for sowing	his sheaves with him
- Results come only after a long period of work and waiting.
- 1 Corinthians 15:58: Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
- Galatians 6:9: And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

→ Where is God calling you to persevere, trusting in His outcome?

Psalm 71:17-21:

¹⁷ O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
¹⁸ So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation,
your power to all those to come.
¹⁹ Your righteousness, O God,
reaches the high heavens.
You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you?
²⁰ You who have made me see many troubles and calamities
will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth
you will bring me up again.
²¹ You will increase my greatness
and comfort me again.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Galatians 6:7-8: Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

2 Cor. 1:19-22: For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

1 Peter 2:24-25: He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.