**FOR THE LOVE OF RESTORATION**

**A MESSAGE BY DEREK TOWNSEND AT THE PRAYER CENTER JAN 11, 2025**



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**Jeremiah 31:3** - The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I **drawn** thee. Rather, do I continue loving kindness unto thee. "To continue" is literally, to draw out at length. The idea is the same as that in the great prophecy which follows that of the suffering Savior, "With everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee"

**John 3:16** - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Revelation 2:1-5** - Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Message Bible: Write this to Ephesus, to the Angel of the church. The One with Seven Stars in his right-fist grip, striding through the golden seven-lights’ circle, speaks: “I see what you’ve done, your hard, hard work, your refusal to quit. I know you can’t stomach evil, that you weed out apostolic pretenders. I know your persistence, your courage in my cause, that you never wear out.

“But you walked away from your first love—why? What’s going on with you, anyway? Do you have any idea how far you’ve fallen? A Lucifer fall!

**“Turn back! Recover your dear early love.** No time to waste, for I’m well on my way to removing your light from the golden circle.

\*\*\*The responsibility of restoration does not solely rest on the lover of our soul! He speaks to us now and says, ‘recover your dear early love’. You remember where you have fallen and repent - do what you did at the beginning! Oh - your zeal for purity and truth has waned, though you know the difference between right and wrong. He’s calling us now! Restore, Restore, Restore - Restore your heart to mine! Examine your heart - remember back to where you exchanged the simplicity of loving one another for the love and satisfaction of thyself alone! Thy love is chilly - come, now, sit with me and let my fire warm it again!

Repentance - The 1st order of restoration! Through repentance all which had been lost by sin, is restored. We “GET TO” take part in the restoration of all things!

He’s waiting to tie up all loose ends to bring full Kingdom restoration - what are we doing to prevent Him from doing so? Rise up, repent, and show forth His praise - judgement of all things is at hand - He must know [now] whose side we are truly standing on!

Turn Back (Repent - T’Shuvah)

shub: Return, turn back, restore, repent, to retreat

Strong's Greek 3340 (metanoeō): To repent, to change one's mind

**Usage:** The Hebrew verb "shub" primarily means "to return" or "to turn back." It is used extensively in the Old Testament to describe physical returning, such as returning to a place or person, as well as metaphorical returning, such as turning back to God or repenting from sin. The term is also used in the context of restoration, indicating a return to a previous state or condition.

**Cultural and Historical Background:** In ancient Israelite culture, the concept of "returning" held significant spiritual and communal implications. The covenant relationship between God and Israel was central, and "shub" often described the act of returning to God in faithfulness and obedience. This return was not merely physical but involved a heartfelt repentance and a commitment to follow God's commandments. The idea of restoration was also important, as it encompassed the hope of returning to a state of blessing and favor with God.

**Jeremiah 30:17**- For I will restore [lift up, ascend] health unto thee, [I will bring new flesh upon thee in the place you were wounded] and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeks after [no one cares for] - In my rising, I will restore wholeness!

**The power of restoration:**

Turn back to a previous state of being found - repentance

Lift up, Go up, ascend - an offering of incense, climbing a mountain, resurrection

Restoration - repentance & resurrection - when we return to Him, He will raise us up again on the third day and we will return to the origins of the Garden!

**Hosea 6:2** - After two days will he revive us [restore to life]: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

**Joel 2:25-27** - And I will restore [shalom: To be complete, to be sound, to make amends, to finish, to repay, to reward] to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Go home to your first love. Repent - return.

Restore yourself to Me for how else will the world know who you belong to? You will be known as mine by the love you have for one another. The prodigal was restored by the love of his father.

**John 13:31-35** - Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself and shall straightway glorify him. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**Our greatest identification is for others to recognize who we follow!**

**Ephesians 6:11-18** - For the rest, my brothers, be strong in the Master and in the mightiness of His strength.

Put on the complete armor of Elohim, for you to have power to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Because we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against authorities, against the world-rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual matters of wickedness in the heavenlies.

Because of this, take up the complete armor of Elohim, so that you have power to withstand in the wicked day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand, then, having girded your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having fitted your feet with the preparation of the Good News of peace; above all, having taken up the shield of belief with which you shall have power to quench all the burning arrows of the wicked one. Take also the helmet of deliverance, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of Elohim, praying at all times, with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching in all perseverance and supplication for all the set-apart ones;…”

**The complete armor IS the LOVE of Elohim!**

**Colossians 3:12-15** - Therefore, as chosen ones of Elohim, set-apart and beloved, put on compassion, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, patience,

bearing with one another and forgiving each other if anyone has a complaint against another, indeed, as Messiah forgave you so also should you.

**But above all these put on love, which is a bond of the perfection.**

And let the peace of Elohim rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one Body, and be filled with thanks.

**There is no greater form of defense, no greater weapon, no greater threat to fear than for a unified army to clothe, exercise, carry and lift up the love of God - For it is our response to being restored by His grace - it is our duty as sons and warriors of the King! His banner over us IS LOVE!**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**:

Love is patient - When the curtains are drawn, the lights are off and the parking lot is empty, He still remains - long after everyone has given up, long after the storm, He waits patiently…Love is kind - so intense is His kindness, that my heart does nothing but desire to repent because its the only way I know how to receive His kindness - repenting of my thoughts of unworthiness, that somehow He made a mistake when He blew breath inside of me…

Love does not envy - There is no zeal of jealousy for that which does not belong to me, that love does not triumph over saying, I am content with myself - the Master’s creation - My shepherd in whom I do not want for anything…

Love does not boast, is not puffed up - of what inside of me should ride the heights in exaltation over another? For He opened not His mouth but accepted the will of the Father. Love sits in recognition that to soar the heights above is to first identify with the lowliness of the Servant who placed Himself last that I might be first - this is my restoration story - this is grace… Love does not behave indecently - I shall not walk in disgrace, nor be ashamed - love has covered me…

Love does not seek its own - it was the absence of self that restored me to first place - **I am His champion!** It is now my free choice to make Him first, keep Him first and promptly return to Him when I have become distracted with self!

Love does not behave indecently, does not seek its own, is not provoked, reckons not the evil, does not rejoice over the unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth, it covers all, believes all, expects all, endures all.

Love is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: Love hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: smitten of God, and afflicted. Love was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Love; and with Love’s stripes we are healed.

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In closing Derek reads a passionate story of redemption – from his own writings.

Shalom, Yedidah – January 17 2025 Shabbat Shalom!