



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 7 - 8

A - Ω

Repent, Refresh, Restore

God planned His future well and decided to include you and I in it. All who come to Christ are chosen for a future of unimaginable blessings. The Bible says, we are chosen in Him—Christ (see Eph. 1:4.) We are not chosen unless we are in Christ. The adventurous journey into God’s future, however, is not as glorious as the final destination and much faith is needed to navigate this journey. Along the way, God provides; He gives us forgiveness from sin, His word, His Spirit, His church and His angels. He teaches us about His provisions and the more of His provisions we possess, the better our journey is. Three words describe the journey; repent, refresh and restore. Scripture says, ***“Repent, then, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord and that He may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything.” Acts 3:19-21***

Repent

In order to repent we must recognize that without God we are taking the wrong journey on the wrong road. Repentance is the act of rejecting our way and turning to God’s way. We turn from our sin and believe that Jesus died and shed His blood on the cross to pay for our sin. We receive Jesus as Savior and set the direction of our lives to obey and follow Him. That is how we find ourselves in Christ. When we have this faith in our hearts and confess this in a prayer of repentance with our mouths, God removes our sin and chooses us to be part of His future. Then we find that our lives are on the right road and we are taking the right journey. Without repentance and a confession of faith in Christ, it is impossible for us to find the right path for our lives.

Refresh

Once we repent and believe in Jesus, the journey for our destiny begins. Then we move to the next stage of the journey. It is called the refreshing stage. Scripture says, ***“Repent ... turn to God, so that ... times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” Acts 3:20***

This refreshing from the Lord includes much more than our usual understanding of what refreshing means. Normally, when we think about the word refreshing, we think of a glass of cold lemonade on a hot day. Ladies talk of going to the powder room to freshen up and refresh themselves. In Bible times, one would have their feet washed after a long journey and that would be refreshing. Those are refreshing experiences and we welcome them.

We can have similar levels of refreshing for our spirit and soul as well. Times of refreshing can come when we enter into real worship, we hear powerful preaching, spend time in deep prayer or have a great season of fellowship with God’s people. These things can release a move of the Holy Spirit that produces a wonderful time of refreshing from the Lord. That level of refreshing breaks depression, sets prisoners free and brings great satisfaction to our lives, but that still does not describe the full refreshing of the Lord that is referred to in the verses that we are studying.

The word refreshing, in these verses, is the word

anapsuxis in the Greek. It is pronounced an-aps-ook-sis. It literally means, a recovery of breath. It is to be revived, as if you died and someone brought you back to life using mouth to mouth resuscitation. From this comes our word for revival. The refreshing of the Lord puts things right; it brings revival to our world and to our lives.

We also use the word refresh on our computers. If we have an old setting for a website and we push the refresh button, immediately the page is upgraded and brought to its proper postings. After repenting, God puts us into a new category for times of refreshing. Then we are able to receive all of the upgrades that God has for us.

This higher level of supernatural refreshing leads us to the kind of life that Adam and Eve had in Eden (Eze. 36:35). It includes the ability to receive revelation from heaven, dreams and prophetic words from God, healings and miracles, gifts of the Holy Spirit, heavenly wisdom and spiritual authority. The refreshing of the Lord awakens us to God's purpose for our lives; our destiny can then be fulfilled and the ministry we are called to is born.

As we travel on this God-ordained journey, we experience refreshment after refreshment. We are changed from glory to glory as we are refreshed by the Lord. This is much more than a feel-good type of

refreshing; it involves a substantive change to every detail of our lives. If you are in Christ then His Spirit is with you and God is working to refresh you in every purposeful and powerful way.

Restore

The 3rd part of our journey into God's future is the restoration of all things.

Earlier, we read, "He may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything." Acts 3:21

The restoration mentioned here is not the restoration of some aspect of your life at this time (that is the refreshing of the Lord.) The restoration mentioned here refers to the time of the restoration of all things. That comes at some time in the future when God remakes everything and puts everything in its right place. That time has not yet come and it certainly does not happen at the beginning of the book of Revelation or at the beginning of the great tribulation. Nothing is being restored then. The beginning of the book of Revelation marks the time of the greatest catastrophes and the worst upheavals in the history of man. It is only at the end of the book of Revelation, once the great tribulation is complete that God will restore everything. That is when the Bible speaks of a new heaven and a new earth. At that time God says, "***I am making everything new.***" Rev. 21:1-5.

Notice the words in Acts, about Jesus. "***Jesus ... must remain in heaven until***

the time comes for God to restore everything." Acts 3:21

The second coming of the Lord cannot take place - until the end of the great tribulation, the Bible says so. Jesus can't leave heaven until the time of the restoration of all things and that only happens after the great tribulation.

Once the earth is harvested through revival and God's judgment (the great tribulation) has ended, then God will restore all things and we will rule and reign with Christ.

These verses about repenting, refreshing and restoration come from Peter's sermon after he and John healed the crippled beggar. It happened in front of the temple as they were going there to pray.

Peter said to the beggar. "***Silver or gold, I do not have, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk***" Acts 3:6

A crowd gathered round and Peter preached repentance, refreshing and restoration. He said - **repent** to get on the right road.

Be **refreshed** so you may do what I have shown you today. Preach, pray, heal the sick and bring people to Christ.

Then, at the end of the age, God **restores** all things. That is when we come to our fullness in Christ. AΩ



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