

RESTORING YOU—RESTORING US

November 1, 2020 2 Corinthians 13:1-10 by Bob Branch
Real Faith in Raw Times, Part 22

BIG IDEA: What God uses to restore you and your world.

¹ This will be my third visit to you. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” ² I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others, ³ since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. ⁴ For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God’s power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God’s power we will live with him in our dealing with you. [GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU]

⁵ Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? [GUT CHECK] ⁶ And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. ⁷ Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. [INTEGRITY] ⁸ For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. [TRUTH IN JESUS] ⁹ We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. [RESTORATION] ¹⁰ This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. [AUTHORITY TO BUILD UP]

FULL RESTORATION: ¹ to GOD; ² PAUL; ³ EA. OTHER; ⁴ SELF

4 Avenues God Uses to Restore:

1. God Speaks _____.

“Christ is speaking through me.” (v. 3)

God will use YOU to for his message if you’re sensitive.

How?

¹ know in your knower ³ God may whisper a word

² have a sense ⁴ a dream...

“If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.” **1 Peter 4:11**

We need to listen for God speaking thru OTHERS.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” **James 1:19.**

2. God Brings _____.

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” **John 8:31-32**

TRUTH IN JESUS

3. God Invites _____.

“Each of you must examine your own actions.” **Gal. 6:4**

“Examine yourself.” **1 Corinthians 11:28**

¹ **What’s coming out of you.** (Matthew 12:34)

² **Journaling.**

³ **Ask:** *Why am I reacting this way?*

⁴ **Counselor/pastor.**

4. God Transforms _____.

The Gospel Way

“When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.” **Romans 5:6** ^{NLT}

“he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God’s power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God’s power we will live with him” (v.4)