

REVIVE!



**For everyone born
of God overcomes
the world.
1 John 5:4**

Occasionally something happens that has national and global ramifications. Examples are the covid pandemic, the war in Ukraine and now the sadness of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th of September. These events, have left many people shocked, traumatised, disoriented, broken and grieving, to say the least. As a result, the ripples of change, are and will continue to be, felt across the world for years.

Jesus says, *'In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world'* (John 16:33). Notice that Jesus does not say that following Him, as we are all invited to do, will make anyone immune to trouble, or make the hardships any less uncomfortable; He simply says, **I have overcome them** – the trouble! In other words, Jesus says these events do not have the final say in people's lives.

Sometimes, the circumstances of our lives, may feel, and even be, overwhelming but they are not the end of the story.

This month we remembered a festival called Holy Cross Day. Surprisingly, it does not focus on sadness and loss, but on victory, exaltation and triumph. The day is an opportunity to be reminded that God is in control! Our God has personally intervened in the world's darkness and lostness by coming to the earth, in Jesus, for the purpose of destroying all the works of the evil one, conquering sin, being triumphant over sickness and victorious over death.

In this REVIVE Newsletter, I will offer a prayer and a promise of **RESTORATION**; **how** we are to pray for it and what a difference walking in the promise of it, can make. Be restored, in Christ.

With my love and prayers,

Steve

Restore – what does it mean?

Its origin is Latin – rebuild – and an English translation is, when you restore something, you bring it back to what it once was' (its original state). You are not making it better, nor are you adding something that wasn't there. For instance, if the electricity goes out, you sit in the dark until the power is restored.

In the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, the word restore is translated in various ways: being rescued, returned to the right place, redeemed, revived, repaired – like the disciples repairing their nets. It seems that where God is concerned, to restore something makes it more than its original, so that the final state is the best, improving something or someone beyond expectation.

Think about it this way; if humans were to be restored to their original state, they would be like Adam or Eve, in the Garden of Eden. Imagine that!

But praise our loving Father God; when He restores us 'in Christ', we become like the 'last Adam' – **we become like the resurrected Jesus!** (1 Corinthians 15:42-49; 1 John 3:2)

This work is on-going, even today, changed from glory unto glory.



A Prayer for Restoration

Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.
(Psalm 80:3, 7 & 19).

This is an audacious prayer. God's people had been punished for disobedience BUT they still approached Him, and repeatedly asked '**RESTORE US!**'

The Psalm alludes to God as Shepherd, Vinedresser and Father, as well as using three different names for God:

- ◆ **Elohim** (vs3): The name Elohim was also used for foreign gods, influential people and judges, but Israel declares, '*Our 'Elohim' is so much more than yours*', i.e. He is the Creator of heaven and earth. (Genesis 1:1)
- ◆ **Elohim Sabaoth** (vs7): The Strong One and the Lord of Heaven's armies;
- ◆ **Yahweh, Elohim Sabaoth** (vs 19): 'I AM'; the Self Existent One and the two names above.

Is the Psalmist deliberately using all these names? Is he sending a message to himself, to grow his faith, and to God, to show him honour? What do you think?

The Psalmist quotes the Aaronic blessing (Numbers 6.22ff); '*make your face shine on us*'. To see the face of God was not the norm but this expression embodies a deeper meaning. It speaks of a desire for presence and intimacy. It acknowledges that although I deserve punishment (judgement), you, God, are compassionate (merciful), so make your face shine on us.

That we may be saved – that we may be in a place of freedom!

Derek Kidner, comments on this Psalm; '*God, it seems, prefers an excess of boldness in prayer to an excess of caution, as long as the boldness is something more than loquacity* (Eccl 5:2; Matt 6:7)'.

Be encouraged to pray boldly for yourself, family, the Church and our nation, and believe for results, in Jesus Name.

The Promise of Restoration

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast (1 Peter 5:10).

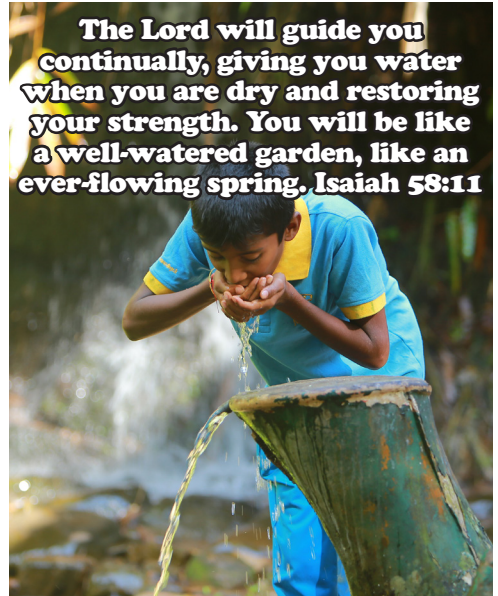
This is a glorious confidence boosting promise – to you and me!

- ◆ **The God of all grace:** Someone said, *'This means God has an inexhaustible supply of good gifts which are adequate for every conceivable need and which are available to all who will receive them, regardless of their performance.'* By grace, we are saved sinners; by grace, we are sustained saints (set apart). Both the sinner and the saint are nothing without the grace of God! Walk in His grace.
- ◆ **Who called you to His eternal glory in Christ:** look back at your calling – you have been chosen; look forward to where you are going – you have been destined. This is secure and guaranteed 'in Christ'. Lift your head high! (Psalm 3:3)
- ◆ **After you have suffered a little while:** Suffering is an enemy of faith which causes doubts, fears, backsliding, and anxiety, to mention a few. Rather than trying to deny suffering happens, we would do well to acknowledge it. The first step in solving a problem is recognising there is one AND we, who are 'in Christ', are overcomers, 'with Christ', by His grace alone.
- ◆ **God Himself will restore you and make you strong** - with His strength, **firm**– like putting a wooden post in the ground, and **steadfast** – like laying a foundation.

Following Jesus means we have been, are being and will be victorious ! His journey is our model, **from crib – to cross – to crown**. St Peter, the writer of the promise above, followed the model and exhorts us to do the same. God will finish what He started in you too.

Restore us Lord!

The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. Isaiah 58:11



- ◆ *Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Psalm 51:12*
- ◆ *But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the LORD. Jeremiah 30:17*
- ◆ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*
- ◆ *Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11*
- ◆ *Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. Acts 3:19*
- ◆ *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2*

A National Crisis

Both the prayer and promise explored in the previous pages are set in revealing circumstances – crisis, chaos and catastrophe – making them so relevant for the days we find ourselves in.

Psalm 80 was written after a time of national disaster. The people were in tears, mocked and ridiculed by their enemies and laid open to all sorts of abuse.

1 Peter 5:10 is set in a time of persecution. The followers of Jesus had witnessed a revival as faith in Jesus spread and the kingdom of God broke in around them, like heaven itself. From the mountain top high to the valley deep low, the enemies of this Jesus movement tried to halt the momentum – violently and with devastating impact.

The response of God's people in both cases is exemplary, a salutary lesson to all. With resilience, fuelled by God Himself, they persevered in prayer, walking in the promises of God! And in the New Testament that was with joy!

This is an urgent time, requiring audacious prayer and boldness to walk confidently as witnesses in the darkness and lostness around us. Stand firm, Brothers and Sisters in Christ.



Contact details: 01424 830204   
Email: enquiries@crowhursthealing.org.uk
Website: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

Beauty for brokenness



Kintsukuroi is the Japanese art of repaired pottery. Rather than discard the broken pot, it is repaired with powdered gold, silver or platinum and looks even more beautiful than its original!

CCHC PRAYERS

Give thanks:

- ♦ for the amazing works of the Lord in individuals and groups, at the Centre and on line;
- ♦ that each month, we're able to pay our fantastic staff and daily bills, even though our income is less than our expenditure and our reserve is decreasing;
- ♦ for the support in covering the monthly REVIVE costs and the polytunnel project.

Please pray:

- ♦ that we are faithful to God, as He is to us, particularly as we endure these hard times;
- ♦ that we have God's perspective on His work here, our lives and all around us, so that we may shine brightly in the darkness;
- ♦ for health, love and protection for our brilliant and stretched staff; and as we stop and reflect with them about where we have come from, where we are at now and where we are going.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Please contact us if your details have changed, or if you no longer wish to receive these publications.