

*Chapter Fifteen*

**THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS**

Turn in your Bibles with me to the book of Acts, chapter 3. This is where we are going to begin, though we are going to move around the Scriptures a little bit. What I want you to do, is to get hold of a vision of who you are and what God has called you to. This is not about the preacher, or about apostles and prophets. This is about every individual getting up off their seat and moving in the things of the Spirit of God. That is what we want. If the church across the world stood up and started being the church, we would see a world-wide revival begin to happen right now. Somebody said, “Send a revival, start the work in me”. So if we are going to see that happen across the world, then we need to be doing it right where we are. I know that there is a hunger and a thirst in the hearts of many of God's people—those who are worshipers, who want to draw closer to the Lord. Grab a hold of what God is doing and He will take you on a ride that you wouldn't believe.

Peter and John said “*look on us*”. How about us, can we say “Look on us”? What have we got? Do we come to get blessed or do we come to be a blessing? Do we have the power of God already in us? We have the life of the Lord in us and, wherever we go, He is in us. We don't have to call Him down, because the life of the Lord Jesus is already in us. Therefore, because He is in us, we can say “Look on us”. We've got something; we've received something; we have the life of the Lord in us already. Many are struggling with things in their lives, even things which happened many years ago. Listen, Jesus dealt with your sin on the cross two thousand years ago. You are a new creation in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed

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away, behold, all things are become new. So stop looking back to the past and look to what Jesus is doing right now. and believe in the power of God that is residing within you. *“Look on us”*. Peter and John had just come out of the upper room, where the power of the Holy Spirit had so poured out upon them. Prior to that, they were in the upper room *“for fear of the Jews”*. They were hiding because they figured that if the people crucified Jesus, they might do it to them too. But then the Holy Spirit came. They began to speak in tongues. The fire of God began to fall upon them. They began to get excited; they got so excited that the door of that upper room flew open; they came tumbling down those stairs and out into the street. They were just out there glorifying and praising God. They were just being the church out in the street, and they were letting the power of God flow through them. And people everywhere around them were saying, 'These people are speaking our language; we can understand what they are saying; they are worshiping God in our language.' People got born again that day; lives were touched and needs were met. This is what the church is called for.

We've got some exciting stuff to look at. Verse 19: *“Repent ye therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And He shall send Jesus Christ which was preached unto you, whom the heaven must receive until the time of the restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began”*.

There are a lot of people who are expecting the Lord to come tonight. But the bible says here that *“the heavens must receive (or retain) Jesus, until the time of the restitution of all things”*. What does that mean? The restitution of all things! Restitution is a word

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that is similar to restoration. And in some ways, it is restoration. He is restoring the years that the canker worm, the palmer worm and all the other worms have eaten. He has taken us, and lifted us up, and brought us into a whole new place. And we are thankful for all of the restoration that the Lord has done in our lives. But restitution has more of the sense of - payback. Let us look at this; we need to build a foundation here. Turn in your Bibles to Exodus 22:1 *“If a man shall steal an ox or a sheep and kill it or sell it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox, or four sheep for a sheep”*.

There is a principle here that the Lord is wanting to reveal to us. Now let us look in 2 Samuel 12:6. You remember the story of how David had seen Bathsheba on the roof top and had taken her, and then had her husband killed at the front of the battle. The prophet then comes to David and tells a story. We are not so much interested in this scenario as in what was said in verse 6: *“And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and because he had no pity”*.

That was David's response before he realized that God was talking of him. But he knew that there was a principle in the scripture, that if something had been taken from you, then there had to be a restitution. It wasn't just what had been taken; more had to be given back. Now let us look in Luke 19:8: *“And Zaccheus stood and said unto the Lord, behold Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor, and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation I restore him fourfold.”*

This is restitution; this is payback. If the Lord is saying that Jesus must remain in heaven until the time of the restitution of all things— until the time of the payback of all things—what does that restitution entail for you and me? What was taken from us that

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needs to be paid back?

Turn to Genesis 1:26 *“And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air and, to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”*

You see, when God put man upon earth in the beginning, He put him there in order that man might have dominion; In order that he might be the king; In order that he might be the prince of the earth. That was the purpose in the heart of Father God when He put man on the earth in the very beginning. He said, It is all yours; and Adam and God partnered together in the creation process, because God created the animals and then He said to Adam, You give them their names. I think that it was more than Adam just saying—I think I will call that striped thing over there a tiger. Or that strange-

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looking big thing with the big nose, an elephant. I am sure that there was far more to it than that, because we understand that, in the scripture, the name is the nature. It is an expression of the nature of the beast. So what Adam was doing was partnering with God, and speaking into those creatures the nature that they were going to have. So this was very powerful stuff that was going on in the life of Adam. He had been given the authority to have oversight over all of it. He didn't have to get out his shovel or garden fork in order to dress the garden. He didn't have to go out there and do manual labor. He was in such a place of authority in the earth, that things happened, not because of what he did, but because of who he was. Did you hear that? It is not because of what he did but, because of who he was. He was the authority on the earth, he was the one in whom God had placed complete authority and dominion on the face of the earth.

One day, the serpent came slithering into the garden and began having a conversation with Eve. Of course he is the great deceiver, and his whole purpose was to steal from Adam and Eve that which had been given to them; that which was rightly theirs. But you see, he couldn't just come in and take over; he had to steal it surreptitiously. We know the story; and what happened because of their sin, and that they were cast out of that amazing realm that they were living in. *Then* they had to get out the fork and the shovel, and *then* they had to start working by the sweat of their brow. And satan stole the authority. The scripture actually bears this out. In the gospel of John beginning in chapter twelve and verse thirty one, we read: "Now is the judgement of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." He had stolen the place of authority, and he had become the prince of the world in place of Adam, in place of mankind. Chapter 14:20, "*Hereafter I will not talk much with you, the prince of this world cometh*

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*and hath nothing in me.”*

Jesus' stated that the prince of this world had nothing in Him— Why did he have nothing in Him? Of the serpent it was said— though shalt go on thy belly and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. What are we made of—dust—and because we have been creatures of the dust, the serpent has been feeding on us. But when we become born again, we become a spiritual creation, we become a new creation in Christ Jesus, and satan **cannot feed on the spirit**. He can't touch the spirit, and that's why Jesus could say, *'he hath nothing in me'*, because He was a spiritual being.

Now let us go back into the garden for a minute, because when Adam and Eve were in this glorious realm, there were both heavenly things going on there, and earthly or natural things going on there. There were all kinds of natural trees in that garden, but there were also spiritual trees, or heavenly trees. The Tree of Life was there, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There were many natural animals in the garden, but there was also a spiritual animal in that garden too—the serpent! There were certainly natural rivers there, and two of them we know today, the Euphrates and the Tigris. But there were two other rivers, and nobody knows where they came from. Those could have been heavenly rivers. So it was both a heavenly and an earthly realm, melded together. But when Adam was put out of the garden, he found himself walking in a realm without heavenly input that he had had before. He had previously been able to walk and talk with his heavenly Father in the cool of the evening. God would come and have sweet fellowship with him; but now all of that was lost; the heavenly was separated from the earthly. What God is wanting to do is to bring heaven back to earth again. That is part of the plan of salvation. So, as we were saying, man *had* been the prince of

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this world, but satan had stolen that from him and had become the prince of this world in his place. But—Jesus! Something happened, and we all know the story of the cross. Because of what took place at the cross, you are no longer an earthy, natural creation. Now you have been made alive in Christ Jesus. Whereas before you had been dead in trespasses and sins, now your spirit has been made alive and you are a creature who once again, has free access into the heavenly realms, free contact with God, and with all that He is doing, and all that He is saying. He is bringing us to the place where He is opening up our minds; opening up our understanding; opening up our ears; opening up all that we are so that we can comprehend what is going on in those heavenly realms. What God is doing in heaven, we can do on earth; we can see the kingdom of God come forth.

*Matthew 4 v8 “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, all these thing will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”*

Jesus didn't try to contradict satan when he said 'All these things wil I give you'. He didn't say, 'Well, they don't belong to you'. He just spoke the scripture and said 'it is only God whom you are to worship. As we come into this place of worship and service to the Lord; as we lift Him up; He lifts us up. Worship is such an important part, and as we worship Him, we glorify Him, we lift Him up—then He takes hold of us and lifts us up and draws us unto Himself. He enfolds us, and as He draws us closer to Him,

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we can lay our head upon His breast and hear His heartbeat; and when we hear the heartbeat of God, we can begin to do on earth the things that He is doing in heaven.

In Ephesians 1:10 it says: *“That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are in earth; even in him”*.

Just as we have been saying that, in the garden, both the natural and the spiritual—the earthly and the heavenly—came together, and that Adam and Eve operated in both realms at the same time, the Lord is going to bring that back again. We will be able to move in the natural with our natural senses, and we will be able to move in the spirit with our spiritual senses all at the same time, just as Jesus did when He was here on earth.

Turn to the book of Hebrews 2:6, *“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honor, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified all are all of one:*

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*for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.”*

Isn't that a good thing! He's your brother. That is so glorious! When Jesus taught us to pray, He said: When you pray, say, Our Father. This was Jesus saying it—our Father, your Father, my Father. That is such a glorious concept! We think of Jesus as the Son of God, but we also have been called to be sons of God. In Romans 8 it speaks about the appearing, the manifestation, of the sons of God. God is bringing about a situation where that which has been stolen from mankind is going to be restored again, there is going to be a payback time, a restitution. And the question is, do we believe it, and do we want that for ourselves. Do you want to be back where God meant you to be in the very beginning. Do you want to be one of those whom He has called to have dominion; one of those whom He is calling to be princes of this world; one of those whom He is calling to be sons of the Living God, in a place of authority in this world. Is that what we want? You see, the Bible says that Jesus is going to remain in heaven until the restitution of all things. At the moment we can look at our own lives and we can say that, yes, there has been some restoration that has taken place, but I am looking for the restitution of ***all things***; where all things come back under the dominion, the power and the authority of the sons of God. He said: *“What is man, that thou are mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honor, and didst set him over the works of thy hands.”*

That's what God did for mankind in the beginning. He set him over everything. *“Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him” Hebrews 2:8.*

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Nothing! *“But now, we see not yet all things put under him”*. How long are we going to live in—*“But now, we see not yet all things put under him”*. How long do you want to live there? As short a time as possible. Because this is the calling, that ***all things*** be under our feet. That is why there needs to be a restitution of all things. *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things,”*

This ***all things*** is very important; we need to sit up and listen. When God says ***all things***, I believe that He means ***all things***.  
*“to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings, For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one.”*

Jesus, by the work that He did on the cross has sanctified us. So He that sanctifieth, and they who are sanctified are all of one, that is, of Father God. *“For which cause he is not ashamed to call us brethren”*. You see, there is a tremendous calling on your life. I thank God for all of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers who have had input into my life. But we need to understand that they are called “until”, they are here for a period of time. In Ephesians chapter 4 we read that they are here for the edifying of the body of Christ, in order to bring the people forth, so that the people can come into the calling that they were called for; to be sons of the living God; to move into a place of dominion and a place of authority on the earth. How are you going to move into that? Well you are just going to have to move against the comfort zones of your life and the barriers that have been placed there and

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start pushing against them. We're going to start praying for people and see them be healed, maybe it doesn't happen every time, but that's not going to stop us from continuing to push against those things—the walls that have held us back all of our lives. We are going to be people who will break through. I don't want to live any longer in “*but now we see **not yet** all things put under him*”. If the Bible says that the heavens must retain Jesus until the restitution of all things, then we need to start believing about this **payback**. It's going to be exciting. We're in for a ride; it's been a fun ride already. What have we got faith for? Are we believing for the payback. I don't believe that satan is just going to say 'Here it is; have it all back'. But I do believe that when the rightful owners realize what is theirs, satan won't be able to hold it any more. And payback will begin.

We have all heard the story of when Elijah was going to be taken away from Elisha, and Elijah said: 'You just stay here'. In effect, Elisha's response was: 'Not on your life; I am staying with you'. Then the sons of the prophets came out and said: 'Don't you know that your master is going to be taken away from you today'. He said: 'That's alright, hold your peace'. And he just stayed right beside Elijah. Then they crossed over Jordan and Elijah said: 'Well, what do you want'. Elisha's response was, 'I want a double portion of what you have'. Elijah answered: 'This is a hard thing that you have asked, but if you see me when I am taken from you, then that is what you will receive'. I am thankful for any portion that I receive, but you know what the payback was scripturally in restitution, it was four times. I want everything that God can give me, all that He has for me. I heard an advert on the TV, it said, “I want it all, and I want it now”. Is that just being greedy? I believe that in the spiritual realm, it is just a case of a people realizing that they need to take back what God gave to them in the first place,

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and know who they are in God, and that satan cannot hold on to it because rightfully it is ours. The sooner we take it back and walk into all that we are called to walk into, the sooner Jesus will come back. Why has it taken two thousand years? Does it have to take another two thousand years? It doesn't! I do believe that we should be training up our children, raising them up so that they can walk into a higher realm than we have. We should be believing for the future. We should be strategizing for the future. I believe in that absolutely. But I believe that what God has got for us, He has for us today. It is for now. And the more that we start moving into it and taking a hold of it, the closer we will be to the return of the Lord Jesus.

In Ephesians chapter five it tells us that He is coming for a bride who is spotless, who is perfect, who is without blemish. That is a different story from a lot of the stuff that we hear about a weak puny church that is waiting for the rapture to take them all out because the big, bad beast is coming after them. What the Bible talks about is a strong people that God has raised up, that God has brought forth; a church that comes forth in the glory and the power of the living God; a church that stands up and starts being the church; a church that believes in who we are in Christ Jesus; who does not allow the enemy to continue to drag it down because of the things in it's past. We've all got stuff in our past, but it's taken care of on the cross; so stop letting it affect you any more. Hallelujah! Thank God for His grace.

I Corinthians 3:18 *“Let no man deceive himself, if any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise”*

There are a lot of people who are worried that someone is going to

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deceive them—the most likely one is yourself. That is why we just have to get our eyes focused on the Lord Jesus Christ, then it doesn't matter what comes. People may get up to all kinds of weird and wonderful stuff, but you know who you are in Christ Jesus.

*“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, the Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours.”* (1 Corinthians 3:19-21)

Is that what it says? All things are yours? That was the purpose of God from the very beginning. He gave you dominion, He gave you all things. So, *“Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christs; and Christ is God's”*. (1 Corinthians 3:22-23)

It is all yours. You are rich. It is all yours. But it's a case of realizing it; it's a case of taking it; it's a case of accepting it; it's a case of walking in it; it's a case of believing it. From the very beginning, God had a plan—He created you to be kings and priests unto our God. Under the King of kings and the Lord of lords you can operate in authority, in the place where God has placed you. You are the kings of whom He is the KING!

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## Bibliography

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