

1. A few weeks ago, we began a series of messages called “This is Your Year of Jubilee”. I have been sharing this as a word from the Lord for 2023.
2. I have been so encouraged because I have had multiple people tell me that are claiming this word for their life and they are expecting God to do supernatural things for them this year.
3. The word jubilee means liberty or freedom. Every 50 years, the children of Israel were to declare a year of jubilee, and during that year all lands and properties, as well as those who had sold themselves as servants were to revert back to their original ownership.
4. When the nation of Israel entered into the promised land, God gave them specific direction as to the land or inheritance that was given to each tribe, clan, family and individual. It was God’s ideal plan for their lives.
5. But over time circumstances and problems and enemies would cause lands to be sold, even to the point that people would sell themselves as servants to pay off their debts.
6. In the year of jubilee however, all of that changed. Everything and everyone was restored back to God’s original intended purpose.
7. I shared two weeks ago that in late July last year I had an encounter with the Lord, and during that encounter I saw God restoring back to individuals everything he had originally intended them to be.
8. I saw the Lord restoring joy, gifts and talents, hope and future, wholeness, the restoration of God’s image in his people, love, hope, dreams for the future, confidence, spiritual cleanness before the Lord, restoration of relationships, successful living, living in the fullness of Jesus Christ and purpose.
9. I saw all of those things and I am convinced that is exactly what the Lord wants to do for me, for you, and for us.
10. So again, I declare. This is your year of jubilee. This is the year in which the Lord longs to restore everything in your life back to his original intended purpose.
11. This morning I want us to dive a little deeper, and what I want us to consider this morning is how it is possible for that to happen.

12. What is the means and mode of God doing the things in your life I am telling you about?
13. To put it simply. These things can only be restored by God as we put our faith in God.
14. We are not talking about a natural restoration; we are talking about a supernatural restoration.

TEXT: Leviticus 25:3-11 For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. 4 But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. 5 Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. 6 Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you—for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, 7 as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.

The Year of Jubilee

8 "Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. 9 Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. 10 Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. 11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you;

TITLE: Faith.

1. In God's promised land for the nation of Israel, there was one and only one way for them to experience the fullness of what God was giving them, and that was through faith.
2. Not faith in themselves. Not faith in their power as a nation. Not faith in their own abilities and great plans, the only way for them to live what God intended for them was to live by faith in the Lord God almighty.
3. I believe the same is true of this word from the Lord for 2023. If everything we are talking about is going to be restored in our lives, we have to be perfectly clear that the only way that is possible is through faith in the Lord God.
4. That may sound like an obvious truth, but it really can't be overstated.
5. I believe **we live in a world system that is built around not having faith in God.** Look at any study done about the condition of people's faith in

God and what you will discover is that this nation that was founded on faith in God is living with less faith in God than at any other time in its history.

6. In 2023, faith in God is not normal, faith in God is abnormal. And we need to be aware of the fact that just because we consider ourselves to be followers of Christ doesn't mean we are immune to being drawn into a lifestyle of less and less faith in Jesus Christ.
7. Living in the fullness of what God intends for our life is dependent upon faith.
8. If we go back to the book of Leviticus we see clear evidence that faith was necessary to live in this promised land.
9. Life in the promised land was to be characterized by sevens and sabbath. Sevens and sabbath.
10. **Leviticus 25:3-7** For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. **4** But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. **5** Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. **6** Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you—for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, **7** as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.
11. For six years sow seed in your fields, prune you vineyards so you can harvest grapes, and gather the crops from the fields you have sown.
12. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest.
13. In the seventh or sabbath year, don't sow seed in your fields, and as a result their won't be any crops to gather.
14. And don't prune your vineyards, and don't eat any grapes that grow that year.
15. Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you.
16. In other words. Don't do all the things you normally do in the six years, in the seventh year or the sabbath year eat only what grows naturally. Meaning, only eat what God provides naturally in nature.
17. How many are still with me? This was a significant command that required faith in God to obey. Why?

18. Let's get our thinking away from 2023 living and let's move our thinking into a very primitive way of living.
19. In the promised land nobody owned refrigerators and freezers. And there was no Walmart, Kroger, or Amazon to shop at to fill the fridges and freezers.
20. There were no dollar stores and gas stations on every corner.
21. There was no order pickup. No sit in your car while someone else does all the work and brings it out to you.
22. In the promised land people lived on what they sowed and tended, and as a result reaped themselves.
23. It was a way of living that in so many ways was just a few steps ahead of ruin and starvation.
24. Drought could kill the crops. Severe rain or weather could ruin the crops. Life was fragile and what little you had was precious.
25. So, when God tells them to count off six years, and do all that was necessary to survive, but that in the seventh year they were to give the land rest, and only eat what grew naturally on it's own (from God) this was a command that required faith to obey.
26. But then every 50 years came the year of jubilee. And in the year of jubilee it required greater faith in order for the restoration God intended to come to pass.
27. **Leviticus 25:8-12** "Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. 9 Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. 10 Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. 11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. 12 For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.
28. So, like the sabbath year, the year of jubilee was to be a year where no one sowed crops. No one tended the vineyards. People were only to eat what grew naturally in the wild.
29. But if we do the math, we realize something interesting.
30. God says count off seven sabbath years. Seven times seven is 49. That means the 49th year was a sabbath year. Then came the year of

jubilee in the 50th year.

31. So what happened was the 49th year was a year where they weren't supposed to sow and reap, but only eat what grew naturally, and the 50th year was a year where they weren't supposed to sow and reap, but only eat what grew naturally.
32. That means for two solid years they were not to trust in the work they did, but they were to trust entirely and exclusively in what God provided for them naturally. The year of jubilee was only possible through complete and utter faith in the Lord God Almighty.
33. In other words, the environment necessary for everything to be restored as God originally intended it to be was an atmosphere of faith.
34. What God was doing was establishing a law or an axiom.
35. That word axiom is a neat little word that simply means an established rule or principle.
36. God was building and establishing for them the foundation necessary for restoration to occur. And that foundation was this.
37. Restoration only happens through rest, and rest only occurs by faith.
38. Let's break that down a little bit.

Restoration.

1. Restoration is only necessary when the original condition of the person or thing has become damaged or flawed to the point that it no longer resembles the original.
2. If you restore a house, or a piece of furniture, or some other object, you take that thing in its present, damaged condition, and you bring it back to what it looked like and functioned like originally.
3. In the case of the nation of Israel, God had mapped out where everyone was supposed to live and what kind of life he wanted them to live, but because of the difficulties and circumstances of life, what existed no longer resembled what God intended. It needed restoration.
4. If we are talking about our lives. We were made for joy, hope, faith, power, purpose, and life, but because of the circumstances and difficulties of life we no longer resemble the original. We need restoration.

5. How many are still with me? So how does restoration come about? Restoration only comes about through...

Rest.

1. What do we mean by that. In order for something to be restored, that thing has to have rest from the force or action that is causing the damage.
2. If we are talking about a piece of furniture, that piece of furniture has to have rest from the sun, or the heat, or the humidity, or the wear and tear that is damaging it and keeping it from looking like what its builder originally intended.
3. But if we are talking about a human being, which we are, then in order for that human being to experience restoration that human being has to have rest from the thing that is causing the damage.
4. From a physical point of view, there are 24 hours in a day, but you and I can't run non-stop 24 hours a day without any rest. We have to stop doing the thing or things (work, play, or whatever) that are draining us of the life and energy that we need to function and we have to have rest.
5. So, in order for restoration to occur, rest is necessary.
6. Now. I know we are talking about kindergarten basics here, but hang on with me for a minute because we are about to jump up the maturity scale.
7. Restoration only happens through rest, and rest only occurs by...

Faith.

1. Let's go back to the nation of Israel in Leviticus chapter 25.
2. God maps out the promised land as to how it is to be divided.
3. Not only that, but he promises them it is a land flowing with milk and honey. Meaning it is a good land that will provide them with many benefits and blessings.
4. But the years go by. This piece of property is sold to that person.
5. This crop is sold to that person. The family home and the family farm are sold off in pieces and the family no longer has a place to call their own.

6. This person gets into trouble and sells themselves as a servant to another Israelite along with everything they have.
7. Another man finds himself in need and sells his entire family into servanthood.
8. 50 years go by and everything is a jumbled mess. Nothing like God intended for it to be.
9. But praise the Lord. The 50th year is the year of jubilee. It is the year where freedom is given, and everything is restored back to its original intent.
10. But God doesn't say hey, just keep doing what you have been doing and I'll bring the freedom and restoration you long for.
11. He says to them stop what you have been doing. Don't continue to do the same things that caused the disruption in the first place.
12. Give the land rest and as a result yourselves rest, and then the freedom and restoration will come.
13. But in obeying the command to rest they must exercise great faith that the lord will take care of them.
14. Let's apply that to our 2023 word from the Lord.
15. This is your year of jubilee. This is your year where freedom will be restored in your life. Hallelujah. Let's shout and get happy.
16. But wait. We can't just continue to do the same things we've been doing and living the same way we've been living; we need rest from those things while the Lord brings about this wonderful transformation and restoration.
17. And that rest from those things requires faith.
18. I don't remember where I heard it from. It's not originally from me I am borrowing it from someone else, but this is the message.
19. **Rest is humbling.** Rest requires me to admit...
 - I'm not superhuman.
 - I don't have unlimited energy.
 - I don't have the ability to stay sharp and strong on my own.
 - Rest forces me to admit that I have limits.
 - Rest reminds me that I can't count on my strength all the time.
20. But the most important thing rest does is it reminds me that I need a

heavenly father who is superhuman. That does have unlimited energy and power. A father who is unlimited in what he is able to do.

21. And realizing those things requires faith.

Conclusion:

1. In the book of 2 Corinthians Paul cries out to God three times and asks him to remove this thorn, this thing that is tormenting him. And this is God's reply.
2. 2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
3. Paul says I will boast all the more about my weakness, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
4. Not, I will be quiet about my weakness. I will cover up my weakness.
5. I will pretend everything is ok when everything is not ok.
6. Paul realized that it was the confessing of his weakness that opened up the door for Christ's power to begin to work.
7. Restoration only happens through rest, and rest only occurs by faith.
8. I asked the question two weeks ago. How many of us need God to restore something? Several of us responded.
9. Praise the Lord. We admit we need restoration. Now let's move onto the next step. Let's apply this to our lives. Let's not be just hearers of the word, let's be doers of the word.
10. What do you need rest from? What has got to stop in your life?
11. What needs to be different in your life.
12. Allowing the Lord to give you that rest. Admitting that something needs to change will not be easy. It will require faith in the Lord.
13. The restoration will not come without the rest. And the rest will not come without faith.
14. Pray.
15. Salvation call. Are you aware that something in your life needs to change.
16. We are going to take a few moments. Maybe this doesn't apply to everyone, but it does apply to someone.

17. Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.
18. What do you need rest from? What needs to change? What needs to be different?
19. Tell him you trust him to make those changes. Not because you feel faith, but because faith is necessary for God to work.
20. Pray over the congregation.