

Reset and Reboot

Isaiah 6

Introduction

Reset

Working on computers

Resetting routers

Sometimes we need spiritual resets.

The beginning of the year is a good time to think about this, but not the only time.

1. Re-examine Our Purpose

Psalm 42:1-2

¹*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.*

²*My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*

[take a brief look at the psalm]

These are the opening words to Psalm 42 written as a song for the sons of Koreh. It was likely part of the temple worship. It expresses the deep longing to be in God's presence.

Much of the psalm talks about discouragement and depression.

The song writer felt downcast and disturbed. Life had gotten to him.

He felt like God had abandoned him.

Then he comes to remember that God loves him.

Do you ever feel like that? If we are honest, we all have moments like that. Sometimes the wave of discouragement can be overwhelming. Sometimes the obstacles can seem insurmountable or the mountain too high or steep to climb.

Show picture of Quin and Nelson

[Share the theme for the year: *Seeking the Lord*]

Why seek God?

We have two choices:

- 1) To find our purpose for life in God and experience all that God has planned for us. The very reason why we have been created.
Ephesians 1:3ff

Or

- 2) To find our meaning in something else. We put something else in the place of God. The Bible calls this idolatry. God hates idolatry. Idolatry will eat away at us and steal our spiritual vitality.

We are like a flashlight that grows weaker as the batteries give up their power. We must ask ourselves, what is the power that drives our life?

This is an important question to ask at the beginning of the year.

What new years resolutions have you made?
[share a few of mine]

Seeking after God will bring spiritual revival.

Revive = to give new life

There have been moments of “revival” in church history. These are sometimes called spiritual awakenings.

- The first Great Awakening from 1734-43 in the eighteenth century under Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, and the Methodist movement in English under John Wesley.
- The second Great Awakening in the early 19th century 1800-1840
- The Holiness Revival of the later 19th century, out of which came the Church of the Nazarene. Tent meetings.
- The great movement of God in China.
- Many other awesome revivals around the world.
- Scheduled revival services growing up.

Revival movements cannot be manufactured or scheduled. We cannot revive ourselves. New life is the work of God alone. When and how revival comes are God’s sovereign choice. We can only prepare ourselves and seek God.

Our spiritual growth, however, can be certain if we seek God.

We can experience personal revival at any time when we seek God.

The goal is not an emotional experience or the manifestation of certain spiritual gifts. This can lead to spiritual pride. This was one of the problems of the Corinthian church.

We can be content with where we are at, but that will lead to stagnation, dryness, and feelings of the writer of Psalm 42. The outcome can even eventually be spiritual death.

We need to refocus our priorities in life. We may need to make adjustments to what occupies our time, thinking, and energy.

2. Come in Humility

Isaiah 57:15

¹⁵ *For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

The awesome God comes to those who humble themselves before him.

The humble of heart come to God in worship and submission. We acknowledge God's position as sovereign. We do not use that word very much in our vocabulary. It basically means that God is number one in our lives, first priority. Humility is an expression of our faith and the open door to obedience.

We approach God in worship and dwell in the presence of the Almighty.
 Sunning ourselves on the beach
 Warming ourselves around a fire on a winter night

In ancient Israel, they had the tabernacle and later the temple to symbolize God's presence. In the New Testament, the Jews in Jerusalem had the temple refurbished by Herod. The early Christians came to realize that God had come to them with his Spirit and they were the temples of the Holy Spirit. We can have an immediate and close experience of God. We can have a sense or feeling of God's presence with us.

If you have not experienced this, spend time in prayer and humility until God's presence becomes real to you.

3. A New Perspective of God

The single most important part of your life and mine is how we see God.

Isaiah 6:1-7

- a. God's sovereignty (v. 1)
- b. Worshipped by Angels (v. 2)
- c. God's holiness (v. 3)
- d. God's awesomeness (v. 4)

What is God Like?

- He is all powerful...omnipotent
- He is all knowing...omniscient
- He is everywhere ...omnipresent
- He is eternal

4. A New Vision of Ourselves

Isaiah's Response:

- a. Repentance (v. 5)
- b. Purification (vv. 5-7)
- c. Service (v. 8)

God's desire for us is to be like him in holiness.

1 Peter 1:15-16: *15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

A new and fresh view of Christ

Revival comes when we talk about Jesus.

Colossians 3:4 *When Christ, who is our life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.*

To experience God's presence is life transforming.

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1. Re-examine Our Purpose

Psalm 42:1-2

Discouraged?

Two choices:

- 1) To find our purpose for life in God
- 2) To find our meaning in something else (“idolatry”)

To experience new life = Revival

This is a good time to Re-focus

2. Come in Humility

Isaiah 57:15

Acknowledging God’s Sovereignty

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