

## Relationships: God Restores What the Enemy Destroys

You will be greatly encouraged and get ways to continually encourage yourself.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

The Enemy Destroys

I'm not saying that the enemy causes everything, but he does mess with people.

The enemy destroys relationships (separate people) because he hates the one thing God desires the most - love and relationships (marriages, families, and friends)

The enemy is sneaky because he hides behind people.

The enemy tries to get this cycle going in everyone, everywhere.

God restores relationships:

God's plan is to break that cycle of hatred by interjecting love, forgiveness, sympathy, and selflessness.

God's plan is to gather people through church, marriage, family, and friends.

God's plan is to turn hate into love, explosive behavior into gentleness, meanness into caring, insults into compliments, and "put-downs" into build-ups.

The enemy takes our vulnerabilities and turns them into weaknesses and then exploits them. God takes our vulnerabilities and strengthens them and then helps us overcome them.

We need to tell ourselves what God says about us daily:

You are good and do good; teach me Your statutes. - Psalm 119:68

My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:19

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. - James 1:17

For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you." - Isaiah 41:13

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. - 2 Corinthians 9:8

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. - John 1:16

If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock-the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. - Deuteronomy 28:1-5

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. - Ephesians 1:3

The Lord's loving kindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. - Lamentations 3:22-23

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely, I will help you, Surely, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' - Isaiah 41:10

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. - Matthew 6:33

It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. - Philippians 2:13  
Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, - Ephesians 3:20

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. - Isaiah 40:31

If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land; - Isaiah 1:19

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. Lord Almighty blessed is the one who trusts in you. - Psalm 84:11-12

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. - Psalm 146:5

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. - James 1:12

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. - Psalm 34:8

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13

We are commanded to:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32

Concentrate on these and you will find out that the old stuff fades into oblivion.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:22-24

Pure and unblemished religion [as it is expressed in outward acts] in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit and look after the fatherless and the widows in their distress, and to keep oneself uncontaminated by the [secular] world. James 1:27

No matter what happens to you or what people say to you, you have a choice of how you will react. You can perpetuate the cycle of hate spurred on by the enemy or you can choose the fruit of the spirit (love) spurred on by the Holy Spirit who lives in you.

So, no matter what happens, choose life!

Deuteronomy 30:19 -20

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Romans 14:19

So, then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

John 12:26

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

In Closing:

In every situation, choose love.

Ephesians 4:27

and do not give the devil an opportunity. (foothold)

Always choose to encourage everyone all the time.

Tell yourself these encouraging scriptures every day. Look yourself in the mirror and tell yourself all of these.