



Sermon Title: The God of Restoration

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scripture: [Genesis 1:1-2] In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

1. God isn't distracted by the clamor of **unbelief**. He focuses on those who hunger for **faith**. (Psalm 53:1; Proverbs 18:2; 26:4; Luke 19:10)
2. Christ commissioned us to **make** disciples - not **win** arguments.
3. It's hard to anticipate a good thing we've **never known** - especially when all we've **ever known** is its opposite!
4. God knows **wounded** people living out of Eden struggle to receive His offer of **abundant** life.
5. We often seek to **protect** ourselves from the perceived **risks** of hope by imprisoning ourselves in **fear**.
6. The fear of stepping out in hope, only to be **disappointed**, can make **cowards** of us all.
7. We won't embrace **hope** until we embrace the **thought** of an all-powerful God.
8. Hard things aren't **impossible** for an all-**powerful** God!
9. God's Word offers the best **answers** to the questions it **raises**.
10. Darkness is a fitting picture of the disorder and devastation produced when sin **poisons** God's perfect **intent**.
11. God doesn't waste His time or ours with useless **trivia**! His references to the **past** are meant to prepare us for the **future**. (1 Corinthians 10:11)
12. What God did with the **planet** He wants to do with **people**.
13. God hasn't **abandoned** His creation. You can walk out of your Egypt if you'll place your **hand** in His.

Growth Group Questions

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WARM-UPS

1. What's the first book of the Bible you ever remember reading in its entirety? How did it impact you?
2. Where does Genesis rank among your favorite books of the Bible to read or study and why?



DISCUSSION

1. In what ways have you seen God accomplish the impossible in your life?
2. In what ways are you a prisoner to fear? What are the things you fear the most and why?
3. In what ways are you still trapped in Egypt? What are the things in your life preventing you from walking in the abundance that Jesus has promised? (John 10:10)
4. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or inspiring in the sermon today and why?

IN THE WORD

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today's message.

- Hebrews 11:6
- Psalm 27:1
- Matthew 19:26

PRACTICE

- Spend some time alone with God asking Him to help you discern and evaluate His restoring work in your life. Are there any areas that require additional restoration? In what ways is He calling you to obedience and to cooperate with His restoring work? Are there any areas of resistance on your part that you need to surrender to Him? Take time to listen and write down what you hear or sense Him saying. Spend some time in prayer committing these areas to Him.
- Who are the people in your every-day life that struggle to see and recognize God's message of hope and restoration? What are some things you can do with the aid of the Holy Spirit to help remove the scales from their eyes that they might see and know the goodness of God? Are you willing to write down their names and commit to pray for them daily, build relationships with them, and engage them in spiritual conversations as the Lord creates opportunities?