

**Remnant Life Church**  
January 29, 2017  
**Positioned and Prepared to Receive God's Blessings**  
Psalm 139:23-24

REVIEW

- Two weeks ago, we looked at the life of Esau – the brother of Jacob
- While God did bless him, he lost on the blessing God had prepared for him had he been a man of discipline not allowing his basic desires to rule him
  - Who else?
  - Jonah – self preservation
  - Samson – the flesh
  - Judas – greed
- What did he lose?
  - Head of the family in his rightful place
  - The lineage of Jesus Christ
- Question – how do we position and prepare our lives to receive all that God desires for us?
- Seven steps to do just that
  - Every person can do these
  - Don't need to be any particular type of person
  - No great biblical scholar

**READ** – **Psalm 139:23-24** - *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

- Important words to understand
  1. Search – (Hebrew pronunciation - hawk-aire) penetrate; examine intimately
    - a. Asking God to search our hearts is not telling Him only what we want Him to know
    - b. This request lays open all that we are in a desire to have the dark things revealed and exposed
  2. Know – (Yaw-daah) to know by observing and experiencing; the “knower” has actual involvement with the object or person being observed
  3. Test/try – (bawk-ghen) – not just examine but prove through temptation
  4. Offensive – (oat-seb) – an idol
  5. Lead – (nah-khah) – guide; go before
- Expanded reading of **Psalm 139:23-24** - Penetrate my heart, Oh Lord and intimately examine and experience my life; place temptation before me to prove my heart and clearly see my thoughts; see if there are any idols in my life that I have placed before you and go before me and I will follow for all eternity.

**1. Reflect**

- a. We begin this process by honestly examining our lives
- b. Our actions; attitudes; thoughts; priorities; vices; weaknesses; etc...
- c. Why? – to identify anything that is preventing the fullness of God’s blessings to come into my life
- d. **Haggai 1:5-7** - *Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways.*

## 2. Repent

- a. Revelation of sin is not the same as repenting of it
- b. You can be very aware of the things that need to change or areas you have sinned but without repentance they remain active in your life
- c. Without repentance there can be no forgiveness
- d. David knew a little something about repenting and forgiveness
- e. **Ps 32:5** - *Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.*
- f. **Psalms 51:1-3** - *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.*
- g. **Psalms 51:9-11** - *Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

## 3. Release

- a. One reason Christians often struggle with receiving and holding on to forgiveness after repenting is a failure to release guilt and condemnation
- b. The burden or sin is removed when we are forgiven
- c. Do not listen to the accusations of the enemy
- d. **Heb 10:16-17** - *“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” Then he adds, “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”*

## 4. Recover

- a. This means that when freed from the power and guilt of sin we must recover what was taken from us
- b. **John 10:10** - *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...*
- c. The Joy of our Salvation
- d. Revive the gifts and talents that were given us to serve Him
- e. Recover the energy and exuberance for living that comes with a heart set free

- f. **Psalm 51:12** - *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

## 5. Rearrange

- a. After we repent, release the guilt, and recover what has been stolen we must then rearrange our lives to ensure we do not regress
- b. Change my habits and practices that lead to sin
  - i. Top Gun pastor
- c. Modify our lifestyle to reflect our desire to serve Him with all that have
- d. Esau allowed his flesh desires and needs to overrule his judgement
- e. In **Exodus 18:12-26** we see a perfect example of what this means
  - i. Jethro the father-in-law of Moses comes to visit
  - ii. Sees that what Moses is doing is wearing him out
  - iii. Gives good and wise advice
  - iv. Moses listens, changes what he is doing
  - v. Not only kept him from burning out but raised up others to do the work

## 6. Renew

- a. Renewing our strength by waiting in the presence of God
- b. Resting emotionally, physically, and spiritually
- c. Resting in the Lord means to spend time with Him
- d. **Isa 40:29-31** - *He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 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.*
- e. The word “hope” is also translated as “wait” (ka-vah) – literal translation is to bind together;
  - i. When we bind ourselves to Him our strength is renewed
  - ii. A look forward with assurance

## 7. Rejoice

- a. We look forward with joy, anticipation, and rejoicing
- b. Worry and anxiety are two of the most powerful blessing killers
  - i. It gives place to the enemy to operate freely in our lives
  - ii. It places the focus on ourselves instead of on Him
- c. **Psalm 13:5-6** - *But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me*
- d. **Psalm 85:6-8** - *Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, LORD, and grant us your salvation. I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly.*

Reflect – Repent – Release – Recover – Rearrange – Renew - Rejoice