

Shalom: God's Plan for Your Life!

KJV Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

God's plan for our lives is **peace!** "*Shalom*" is the Hebrew word it means **freedom from chaos, to have tranquility and quiet!**

But it also means... **wholeness, health, security, well-being, prosperity, hope and completion.**

We are not **whole or complete** if we are missing anything God plans for us to have!

I sometimes think it's easier for God's people to believe God for physical healing rather than healing them from poverty! Poverty is an affliction (suffering)!

KJV Mark 5:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, **26** And had suffered many things of many physicians, and *had spent all that she had*, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

Mark 5:28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. **29** And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

After using her faith to touch Jesus she was made **whole in her body!**

Her physical suffering stopped, but she was still **suffering financial affliction!**

Mark 5:34 And he (Jesus) said unto her, *Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*

Jesus tells her that her faith has made her physically whole, now **go in peace (put your mind at ease) AND be whole (freed from everything afflicted you).**

- An affliction is anything that causes misery, pain and sorrow (suffering)!

Not only was this woman **afflicted by her sickness, she was afflicted** by poverty.

So, Jesus **heals her physically and then goes on to say "be made whole from the plague—be restored from your affliction!"**

Don't have any more nightmares about being sick, don't have thoughts of being weak, don't think about how the doctors treated you or about the money you spent!

- **Jesus declared The Shalom of God over this woman's life!**

Shalom is all about wholeness and wholeness requires restoration!

KJV Joel 2:25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

This prophecy came to encourage God's people after **years** of devastating loss, famine and destruction.

I'm not focusing on the insects, but on the fact, this **happened in stages for years!**

The first stage of restoration to wholeness is repentance.

The people of God stopped following God and started doing as they pleased!

ESV Deuteronomy 16:16 "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths. They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

Empty Handed meant one of two things, either God had not blessed them, or they spent it ALL on themselves! (They had to praise, service or offerings in their hand)

Once God blesses us (**fills our hands with wealth**) we are to come before Him with an offering (**emptying our hand**) so He can fill it again!

This is Restoration on its fundamental level!

ESV Deuteronomy 16:17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you.

The New Testament companion scripture is:

GWN 2 Corinthians 9:7 Each of you should give whatever you have decided. You shouldn't be sorry that you gave or feel forced to give, since God loves a cheerful giver.

A cheerful giver is one who knows it was God that blessed them and giving is part of the restoration process God uses to make us whole—to return to us what we need to accomplish His Plan for our lives.

ESV 2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Once we give, once we release what God places in our hands (**out of love for God, not feeling sorry we gave, not feeling forced to give and not giving just to get**).

God uses His power to (**restore not only what we gave**) but make all types of favor, grace, goodwill and abundance come to us, so we will have everything we need and more to work the plan He has for our lives!