

BBC 9/22/24 Home Bible Study Outline “RESTORED what was STOLEN” [John 20:21-22](#) & [2 Pet. 1:2-4](#)

We are called to endurance, but not by our own means – God has restored to us all things stolen by Enemy!
Therefore, we’re called to overcome by using what God has restored & provided for us, through obedient faith.

Five things God gave us, and what the Devil did to steal them:

- 1) [Genesis 2:7](#) **The breath of life** – Through deception, the Devil stole life and replaced it with death.
- 2) [Gen 1:26](#) **Created us in the likeness of His image** – Through deception unto sin, the Devil corrupted us.
- 3) [Gen 3:8](#) **Fellowship with God** – The Devil pitted mankind against each other, and all at enmity with God.
- 4) [Gen 1:28](#) **Dominion over earth** – The Devil beguiled Eve & used her to steal Adam’s scepter of rulership.
- 5) [Gen 2:18](#) **Intimacy & relationship** – The Devil, like an evil mistress, seduced mankind to unite with him.

- Discussion:
- 1) How did the Devil bring mortality & death to mankind? ([Gen 2:17](#); [3:4](#))
 - 2) How did sin corrupt our likeness to God’s image, both physically & spiritually? ([Gen 3:15-19](#))
 - 3) How did sin cause our fellowship with God to be severed? ([Gen 6:5](#); [Romans 3:23](#))
 - 4) How did sin cause mankind to lose his dominion and authority over the earth? ([Gen 3:1-5](#))
 - 5) How did sin make us unworthy & alienated from intimate relationship with God? ([Gen 3:7-8](#))

How God restored those five things:

- 1) **The breath of life** – God sent Jesus to purchase our victory over sin, and restore eternal life. ([John 20:22](#))
 - The Devil suffocated God’s breath of life into sinless Adam & Eve, causing them to be subject to *death*.
 - **God**, through the resurrected Jesus, used the same method of *breathing* eternal life back into mankind.
- 2) **The likeness of His image** – God created sinless creative spiritual-beings, with intellect, emotions, & will.
 - The Devil corrupted mankind’s nature, thus redirecting the use of all our faculties & giftings towards *evil*.
 - **But God**, through Jesus Christ’s provision, which is applied by the Holy Spirit on all who will receive, has caused us to *escape* the Devil’s corruption and again be *partakers* of God’s divine nature! ([2 Peter 1:4](#))
- 3) **Fellowship with Him** – God came walking and looking for Adam in the Garden... created for fellowship.
 - Sin severed our fellowship; distanced & alienated us from God’s presence, becoming *strangers* to Him.
 - [Romans 5:1](#) **But God**, through Christ’s justification, *brought peace* & reconciliation between us and God.
 - [2 Corinthians 5:21](#) The sinless Jesus became sin *for us* that we might have God’s righteousness *in us*.
 - [Colossians 1:13](#) We are now *delivered* from the power of darkness & *transferred* into Christ’s Kingdom.
 - [Ephesians 2:19](#) We’re now no longer strangers & foreigners to God, but rather *citizens* of God’s Kingdom
 - [Romans 8:1](#) There is now *no condemnation* to those who are in Christ, who no walk not after the flesh.
- 4) **Dominion over the earth** – God intended us to be His authorized *stewards* of earth, taking *dominion* of it.
 - Through Adam’s fall, the Devil took Adam’s scepter & stole *ownership* of the world, ([Matthew 4:9](#)). He is now the “*Prince*” of this world ([John 14:30](#)), but destined to be *judged* ([John 16:11](#); [Revelation 20:10](#)).
 - **But God**, through Christ, has given authority to His Church, commissioning us to occupy until He returns by pushing against the kingdom of Satan ([Matt 16:18](#)), and building the Kingdom of God ([Matt 28:18-20](#)).
- 5) **Intimacy & relationship** – God intended His fellowship with mankind to be intimate and relational.
 - Sin made us unacceptable to God for intimacy. Our idolatry and backsliding is like *adulterous whoredom* ([Jeremiah ch.3](#); [Ezekiel ch.16](#); book of [Hosea](#)), and our rebellion is like *witchcraft* ([1 Samuel 15:23](#)).
 - **But God**, using similar means for the sake of our understanding, gave mankind a second chance: Just as God put Adam into a *deep sleep*, from whom He brought out the blessing of Eve – So God, put His Son, Jesus, to *die and be buried* in the earth for three days, from Whom He brought out His Church.
 - **Prayer** is the greatest exercise of intimacy with God. He calls His Church to pray ([Acts 1:14](#), [2:1](#)), and for us individually to pray secretly so that God may reward us openly ([Matthew 6:6](#)).

- Discussion:
- 1) If God has “*given us all things that pertain to life & godliness*” ([2 Peter 1:3](#)), and thereby restored the stolen *breath of life*, *likeness to His image*, *fellowship*, *dominion*, & *intimacy*, do we have any excuse as to why we, as His Church, all too often tend to be weak and timid?
 - 2) Since God has restored to us *all* that the Enemy has stolen, what responsibility do we bear?