

WORD

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” ¹⁷The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

John 21:15-17

WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

After Jesus’ resurrection, He showed Himself to His disciples on several occasions. One of which is the story about Peter, John, and five other disciples after the miraculous catch (John 21:1-7). After having breakfast, Jesus turns to Peter and asks him three significant questions that point us to what we have access to in Christ.

- **In Christ our relationship with God is restored.**
For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Romans 5:10

Peter’s relationship with Jesus had several ups and downs, but the lowest point was when he denied Jesus three times (Matthew 26:69-75). In his mind, Peter thought that his fellowship with Jesus was over. Yet out of His unconditional love for him, Jesus restored Peter by asking him three times if he loves Him, redeeming how he denied Him thrice. Through Jesus Christ we are restored into a right relationship with God (Colossians 1:21,22; Ephesians 2:13). Share about how Jesus restored your relationship with God.

SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- How does the truth that we have access to God’s restoring work through Christ encourage you today?
- Does your relationship with Christ need restoration? In what way?
- Do you need God’s grace to realign you to His purpose?

NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- Have you received the loving grace of God through Jesus to restore you in a right relationship with Him? If not, will you receive it today?
- Who among your family and friends need to get right with God? How can you share to them God’s heart to restore them back into Him?
- What steps do you need to take to allow God to realign you to His purpose? When will you start walking in His will?

- **In Christ our purpose is restored.**
In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will . . .

Ephesians 1:11

Peter may have thought of himself a failure as a disciple because of what he did. Yet Jesus, in front of the other apostles, affirmed and commissioned him three times of his purpose—a shepherd over God’s people. In the same way, by God’s grace through Jesus Christ we also are restored to our divine purpose (Exodus 9:16, Psalm 138:8).
