**John Mark’s Ministry And Restoration**

**Introduction**

The Healing Results of Spiritual Surgery

Sometimes Christians can act just like sharks that sense blood in the water: they circle in for the kill. But this is not God’s way! Here is an example of how restoration is to be done: One of the great preachers of the South was marvelously converted when he was a drunkard. His ministry was quite demanding and after a great deal of pressure and temptation he got drunk one night. He was so ashamed that the very next day he called in his board of deacons and turned in his resignation. He told them, “I want to resign.” They were amazed. They asked why. He frankly told them, “I got drunk last night. A preacher should not get drunk, and I want to resign.” It was obvious that he was ashamed, and do you know what those wonderful deacons did? They put their arms around him and said, “Let’s all pray.” They would not accept his resignation. A man who was present in the congregation that next Sunday said, “I never heard a greater sermon in my life than that man preached.” Those deacons were real surgeons—they set a broken bone; they restored him. There are some people who would have put him out of the ministry, but these deacons put that preacher back on his feet, and God marvelously used him after that.

Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [*Practical Illustrations: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians*](https://ref.ly/res/LLS:PRCTCLGLTNSCLSS/2014-11-03T19:38:45Z/263857?len=1213) (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2001), 119.

**New Beginnings.**

36 Some time later, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s go back and visit all the brothers and sisters in every city where we preached the Lord’s word. Let’s see how they are doing.” 37 Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them. 38 Paul insisted that they shouldn’t take him along, since he had deserted them in Pamphylia and hadn’t continued with them in their work. 39 Their argument became so intense that they went their separate ways. Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus. 40 Paul chose Silas and left, entrusted by the brothers and sisters to the Lord’s grace. 41 He traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Acts 15:36-41 CEB

This passage of scripture describes a conflict and a separation between Paul and Barnabas, two early Christian missionaries who had traveled together to spread the gospel. The source of their disagreement was John Mark, a young companion who had accompanied them on their first journey but had left them halfway through. Barnabas wanted to give John Mark another chance and bring him along on their second journey, but Paul refused to trust him and considered him unreliable. As a result, they parted ways and pursued different routes, with Barnabas and John Mark going to Cyprus and Paul and Silas going to Syria and Cilicia. This shows that even among the apostles, there were human differences and disputes, but also grace and forgiveness. John Mark later became useful for Paul's ministry (2 Timothy 4:11) and wrote the gospel of Mark.

Only Barnabas, it seems, had any confidence left in Mark. At the age of 32, Mark had failed three times. Ten more years pass and we hear nothing of Mark. Then a letter makes the rounds of the various churches. It is from Peter, who is also travelling as a missionary.

**Restored and Honored.**

12 I have written and sent these few lines to you by Silvanus. I consider him to be a faithful brother. In these lines I have urged and affirmed that this is the genuine grace of God. Stand firm in it. 13 The fellow-elect church in Babylon greets you, and so does my son Mark. 14 Greet each other with the kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ.

1 Peter 5:12-14 CEB

This letter reveals that Mark has been restored to a place of trust and respect among the apostles. He is now called Peter's son, which implies a close relationship and spiritual mentorship. Mark may have accompanied Peter on some of his missionary journeys, as he did with Paul and Barnabas earlier. He may have also helped Peter write this letter, or acted as his interpreter. Tradition says that Mark wrote the gospel that bears his name based on Peter's eyewitness testimony. Mark's gospel shows the grace and forgiveness of Jesus, who restored Peter after his denial. Perhaps Mark experienced the same grace and forgiveness from Peter, who once rejected him. Mark's life is an example of how God can use our failures and turn them into opportunities for ministry and growth.

During this time with Peter, Mark interviews him extensively for a book he is writing. It still bears his name and is included as the second book in the New Testament. It is the first biography ever written of Jesus Christ. **Mark is no longer a loser. He has become a winner.**

There are two more references to John Mark. Paul, now in prison in Rome awaiting execution for preaching the Gospel, has had a change of heart. Maybe it’s because he finally saw in Mark what Barnabas and Peter saw in him. Or, perhaps Mark has changed. Whatever, he’s no longer a coward, a failure, a loser. Now he’s willing to die for his faith.

The passages that mention him are Colossians 4:10 and 2 Timothy 4:11.

Paul Appreciates John Mark.

10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, says hello to you. So does Mark, Barnabas’ cousin (you received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him). 11 Jesus, called Justus, also says hello. These are my only fellow workers for God’s kingdom who are Jewish converts. They have been an encouragement to me.

Colossians 4:10-11 CEB

Timothy Blessed By John Mark’s Ministry.

11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark, and bring him with you. He has been a big help to me in the ministry.

2 Timothy 4:11 CEB

**Paul Encourages Us To Press On Even In Hardship. A Lesson Know Doubt John Mark Learned, As He Is Respected By These Great Preachers Of The Gospel.**

37 But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. 38 I’m convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers 39 or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

Romans 8:37-39 CEB

In this passage of scripture, the Apostle Paul is saying to us that we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us and gave himself for us. He is saying that nothing in the whole creation can separate us from God's love, which is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. He is saying that no matter what we face in this life, whether it is suffering, persecution, hardship, or death, we have the assurance that God is with us and for us, and that nothing can break his bond of love with us. He is saying that we have a hope that transcends the temporal circumstances and that we can rejoice in the victory that Christ has won for us. He is saying that we can press on in faith and perseverance, knowing that God's love is stronger than anything that can oppose us.

This is what John Mark has embraced. He no longer is running from his problems, getting intimidated by people or circumstances. He has matured and become a strong leader in the Church.

John Mark has learned to take a stand, and make sure trust in the Lord and power of His might, and not his own.

13 Therefore, pick up the full armor of God so that you can stand your ground on the evil day and after you have done everything possible to still stand.

Ephesians 6:13 CEB

**We Need To Take Up The Call For The Ministry Of Restoration.**

**We Must Carry On In This Ministry Of Restoration. God Wishes None To Perish, But All To Have Eternal Life. He Goes Out And Looks For The Lost Sheep, He Restores The Soul, He Changes Lives, He Gives Hope Where There Seems No Hope.**

Brothers and sisters, if a person is caught doing something wrong, you who are spiritual should restore someone like this with a spirit of gentleness. Watch out for yourselves so you won’t be tempted too. 2 Carry each other’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks they are important when they aren’t, they’re fooling themselves. 4 Each person should test their own work and be happy with doing a good job and not compare themselves with others. 5 Each person will have to carry their own load.

Galatians 6:1-5 CEB

This ministry of restoration is the mission of bringing back those who have fallen away from God or gone astray in their faith. It is the work of helping them repent, forgive, heal, and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is the responsibility of every believer, especially those who are mature and spiritual, to restore their brothers and sisters with gentleness, humility, and love. It is also the duty of each one to bear one another's burdens and help them overcome their struggles and temptations. This ministry of restoration reflects the heart of God, who desires to save and restore all people to a right relationship with him. It also fulfills the law of Christ, which is to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.