



# RESCUE

HOW TO  
RESTORE A  
BACKSLIDDEN  
BELIEVER

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# INTRODUCTION

**W**e are in the last days. Jesus is coming soon. If you do not believe this, you need to ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you about it. According to the scriptures, in the last days, many shall depart from the faith and return to some of the lifestyles the Lord delivered them from. Some will even begin to do things they once preached against.

**“But the [Holy] Spirit explicitly and unmistakably declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, paying attention instead to deceitful and seducing spirits and doctrines of demons...” - 1 Timothy 4:1 (AMP)**

**“There will be such an increase of the sin of lawlessness that those whose hearts once burned with passion for God and others will grow cold.” - Matthew 24:12 (TPT)**

Today so many believers live in self-condemnation, guilt, and shame. Some have completely departed from the Christian faith. I believe you know someone who used to be on fire for God but is no longer the way he used to be. We need to have compassion for them and partner with God for their restoration. One of our covenant responsibilities as believers in these last days is to reach out to our brothers and sisters who have been overtaken by sin and help them get back on their feet.



# SEVEN KEYS TO RESTORING A BACKSLIDDEN BELIEVER

**T**he Holy Spirit taught me some ways to restore challenged and backslidden believers some years ago. With His help, I have restored a good number to the faith. I want to share some of the things He taught me with you in this chapter.

## 1. PRAY FOR HIM

Prayer always works. God always answers our prayers, especially when what we ask for is consistent with His plans and purposes.

**“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”**

1 John 5:14

The restoration of a challenged believer is His will, so you can be sure that God will restore him when you pray. Before you talk to him about God, talk to God about him. Pray for the opening of his spiritual eyes so the light of the gospel can penetrate his heart. Command the devil's hold on his soul to be broken. Pray for his complete deliverance and restoration. Also pray for the wisdom of God as you speak to them.

## **2. ASSURE HIM OF GOD'S UNCHANGING LOVE**

A challenged or backslidden believer is always weighed down by the guilt of sin. He condemns and blames himself. He feels like he has disappointed God. Many times, it is this guilt that keeps him away from church and causes him to isolate himself from other believers. The worst thing you could do is remind him about his failures and sins. When you meet him, reassure him that he has not drifted too far for God's grace to find him. Tell him that God loves him with an everlasting love.

**“...Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”**

**Jeremiah 31:3**

Tell him that God never left him. He promised to be with him always.

**“...and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the  
age.” Matthew 28:20**

**“...For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” - Hebrews 13:5**

Assure him that God loves him and misses their relationship. This is not a motivational statement; it is gospel truth. Find scriptures that assure him he can start over with God afresh. The whole process of restoring a challenged believer is all about renewing his mind with the truths of the word of God and helping him to receive the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

This can only be accomplished with the help of the Holy Spirit, so you need to rely on Him for guidance. You need His help not to give up because sometimes the person you are ministering to may not come right immediately. Some may even try to discourage you, but always remember that you are on a rescue mission, and you may be their only hope for eternity with God.

### **3. LEAD HIM IN A PRAYER OF REPENTANCE AND RECOMMITMENT**

Jesus Christ has already paid for all our sins, but we must receive forgiveness by faith. Assure the person you are helping that his relationship with God can be restored instantly. He should just be willing to acknowledge before God that he has messed up. He should receive forgiveness for his sin and cleansing from all unrighteousness.

**"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

1 John 1:9.

Remind him that if he confesses with his mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in his heart that God has raised Him from the dead, he will be saved.

**"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." - Romans 10:9**

You may lead him in a prayer like this:

**"Lord Jesus, I believe you died on the cross to wash my sins away and I believe God raised you from the dead. I confess that I have sinned against you and ask you to forgive me. Right now, I believe that my sins are forgiven, and I receive cleansing from unrighteousness. I ask you to fill me now with your Holy Spirit and empower me to lead a victorious Christian life from now on. Thank you for restoring me, in Jesus' name, Amen."**

Now remind him that he is a new creature in Christ. His sins have been taken away as far as the east is from the west. God does not even remember that he ever sinned. He is a new person who never existed. Read and explain these scriptures with him – 2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 103:12; Hebrews 8:12.

Take some time and help him understand what

happened to him the moment he made Jesus the Lord of his life. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 with him. I recommend you share my teaching series titled 'Stand Strong' with him. You can listen to me on all the major podcast platforms (Spotify, Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts, Castbox, Anycast, etc.).

## **5. LEAD HIM IN A PRAYER TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Living a victorious Christian life is not just difficult, it is impossible without the help of the Holy Spirit. There is an empowerment we receive when we receive baptism in the Holy Ghost which enables us to overcome temptations, resist the devil, and be effective in sharing the Gospel with others, leading them to receive the gift of salvation.

**“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8**

When we receive that baptism, we are completely immersed in the liquid fire of the Holy Spirit, and we become very powerful Christians who can exercise dominion over the forces of darkness that make people do sinful things. You also receive a new spiritual language with which you can build up yourself daily and remain spiritually fit. Using that language is what we call speaking in other tongues or praying in the Holy Ghost. When a believer speaks in tongues, he edifies and builds up himself,

the same way we charge our mobile phone's battery to keep our phone working. This is why you must lead the believer you are helping to receive this baptism and encourage him to speak in tongues many times a day.

**“For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to the understanding]...He who speaks in a [strange] tongue edifies and improves himself...” - 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4  
(AMPC)**

When one develops the habit of praying in other tongues regularly, the following things happen in his life:

1. He becomes more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
2. He begins to understand the word of God better.
3. He becomes a bolder and stronger witness for Jesus Christ.
4. He flows more easily in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
5. It is easier for him to overcome temptations.
6. His spiritual growth is accelerated.

**“But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit.”**

**Jude 1:20 (AMPC)**

Encourage and motivate him to speak in tongues. Whenever you have the opportunity to fellowship with him, take some time to speak in tongues together. It may not make sense to his mind, but it makes impact on his spirit and with time his mind will realize that “this thing actually makes sense”.

Jesus Christ is both the Savior from sin and the Baptizer with the Holy Ghost.

**“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” - Matthew 3:11**

The way we receive salvation from sin which He gives is the same way we receive baptism in the Holy Ghost which He imparts. So, it is as easy to get saved as it is to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. The same way we said a simple prayer to receive the gift of salvation, and we believed that we are born again, we should also say a simple prayer to be baptized in the Holy Ghost and believe that we have received it. If you truly believe this, you will lift your hands, open your mouth, and speak in tongues as soon as you say amen.

Lead him in this short prayer:

**“Lord Jesus, I receive you as my Baptizer with the Holy Ghost and Fire. I ask you to immerse me in the Holy Ghost and give me my new prayer language, in Jesus' name, Amen.”**

Then tell him to lift his hand and begin to speak in other tongues. Let him be patient as the Holy Spirit flows from his spirit and takes over his carnal mind. Do not be discouraged if he does not speak in tongues immediately. Just keep encouraging him to pray in tongues whenever you meet and help him destroy whatever lie he believes about speaking in tongues. Keep reminding him that the moment he said the prayer, he was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

#### **5. ENCOURAGE HIM TO READ THE BIBLE DAILY**

The word of God is our main source of spiritual nourishment. It is our spiritual food. It is the bread of life that keeps us spiritually healthy and fit. It is the spiritual milk that keeps a believer growing in respect to salvation.

**“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby.” - 1 Peter 2:2**

Whenever we read the Bible and understand it, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we become stronger. Applying what we learn from the word of God in our daily life is what keeps us in the faith as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Backsliding does not happen instantly. The process begins when we begin to neglect reading our Bible. Reading and applying God's word keeps us on the path of purity and empowers us to lead a victorious Christian life.



**“How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.” - Psalm 119:9 (NIV)**

Whenever you stop reading your Bible and praying regularly, you start sinning easily. It is the word of God that we use to overcome Satan's temptations. This is why you should help the believer you are walking with develop a Bible reading plan and encourage him to follow it faithfully. Help them download a Bible App on their mobile phones. I use the YouVersion Bible App and recommend it to every believer. It is a great app, and it is free. It has several translations you can use it offline. Do everything possible to ensure that they have a copy of the Bible wherever they go. Get them excited about the word. Pray for them to love the word and to have a revelation of the importance of reading the word of God.

## **6. MOTIVATE HIM TO FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS REGULARLY**

Something supernatural happens whenever we fellowship with other believers. We always leave the fellowship better and stronger than we came. This is because Jesus is always present whenever believers meet, whether in a formal local church setting or an informal meeting.

**“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them.” - Matthew 18:20**

Whenever Satan targets a believer for destruction, he

first isolates him and separate him from other believers. The lockdowns and restrictions on gatherings, which made it difficult for many believers to gather for fellowship, were one of the devil's greatest breakthroughs ever. It has closed a number of local churches for good, and weakened the spiritual lives of multitudes who depend on corporate fellowship for survival. So many people have backslidden. A believer should never neglect fellowship meetings.

**“Not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ’s return] approaching.”**

Hebrews 10:25 (AMP)

As the second coming of Jesus Christ draws near, Satan is doing everything possible to stop believers from coming together in unity, as he knows what happens whenever we fellowship with one another. Please ensure that the person you are walking with is planted in a good local church and encourage him to attend weekly services. Encourage him to become a member of a small group fellowship near him as well. One of the best ways to ensure that your disciple gets planted in a local church is to encourage him to join a service unit (Ushering, Transportation/Parking, Hospitality, etc.). You should also meet with him as often as possible whether physically or virtually. Also recommend some audio and video teaching from anointed men and women of God with proven

integrity. That is a very important discipline that keeps our faith strong and growing.

## **7. WARN HIM TO AVOID BAD COMPANY**

It is easier to pull someone down than lift someone up. Because of man's fallen nature, we tend to gravitate more toward the negative than positive. This is why it is easier for us to pick up bad habits from society than good ones. Everything in the world in these last days is inspired and designed by the devil to increase ungodliness. Most of the things people do for entertainment are poisonous to the soul. The entertainment industry has been dominated by agents of the devil and is used as a weapon of the devil to steal kill and destroy. Warn him about this.

You should warn your disciple about the danger of keeping bad company whether physically or via social media. Teach him the importance of saying “No!” when old friends invite them to go with them to places where they do unholy things.

**“My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.”**

Proverbs 1:10

Teach him that keeping bad company will pull him back to his old ways of sin.

**“Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” - 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)**

If he is struggling to break free from old sinful relationships, help him through the process. Pray for him and be there for him. Also note that human beings thrive by association, so if you discourage a person from wrong associations, you should also help him build positive ones. Ask the Lord to help you with this.

## GOD'S RESCUE AGENTS

**T**he most important people on earth today are those who are committed to leading sinners to salvation, restoring the backslidden and strengthening the brethren. They are 'God's Rescue Agents.' These are the people who bring great joy to heaven. God is calling you to join this Elite Team. You do not have to be an ordained minister of the gospel; you just have to be willing to be used by God. The truth is that the greatest laborers in these last days will be 'ordinary' (un-ordained) believers in the marketplace – Christians who will understand that their work or business place is their church. These are Jesus' hands and feet. They will reach more people to Christ in a day than any pastor would reach on a Sunday service.

**“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his**

**shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” - Luke 15:4-7**

God is calling you to have compassion on His lost sheep. He wants you to leave the company of believers who kill their wounded brethren. He is calling you to do something about the spiritual state of your brothers and sisters. He is tired of those who only criticize and gossip about their fallen brethren. He wants you to know that you can help bring your brother back to his feet. He wants you to know that He has anointed you to restore your backslidden sister.

**“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”**

Galatians 6:1-2

It is time to reach out to those people who used to be on fire for God. God can set them on fire again. The laborers are few. One of those fallen brethren could be the greatest laborer who will bring millions to heaven when restored. You don’t know the value and potential of an ex-believer until he is restored. The truth is that the believer who is challenged the most is the one whose destiny threatens the

devil.

God is asking you to make a list of those backslidden believers in your family, your church, your workplace and begin to pray for their restoration. You may be their only hope for restoration. If another person was supposed to restore them, don't you think he would have done that already? Don't delay anymore. What if that brother died tonight without amending his relationship with God? You can do something. You can do something now. I pray against the fear of rejection right now in Jesus' name. I pray that the compassion of Jesus Christ would rise in your heart right now. I pray that your heart will be set ablaze with an unquenchable passion for the lost and backslidden right now, in Jesus' name.

Do something today. Do it before it is too late. Reach out to them today. If they are not within your reach, you can ask the Lord of the Harvest to send one of His laborers to bring them back into the fold. By all means, do something. Make a call. Set up a meeting. Take advantage of every available media platform. You may be sowing the seed or watering it. Just do whatever He asks you to do. I pray that you will be one of those who bring great joy to heaven in Jesus' name.

## CONCLUSION

**T**his book was written for you. You are one of those 'Saviors' ordained to come from Mount Zion in the last days. You have been appointed and anointed to bear abiding fruit, and you will not fail in Jesus' name.

Please take note of the Seven Keys and watch your own soul. Be a person of the word. Develop a consistent and growing prayer life. Spend a good amount of time praying in other tongues every day. Never get to the point where you think you are too big to fellowship with other believers. No matter what your government says, do not neglect physical meetings with other believers. Jesus is coming soon. You should never be found walking alone. You need other believers and other believers need you. Do not associate with people who are not committed to a life of holiness.

**"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, both now and**



forever. Amen” - Jude 1:24-25



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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



SAMUEL ODOH is called to equip believers for a life of victory through the teaching of the word of faith. His passion is to see people enjoy everything Jesus Christ paid for us to have with His precious blood.

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He is happily married to Ndiliseka and they serve God's people together.

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