

Published based on [What Does It Mean to Have Your Soul Restored? \(pt. 2\)](#)

What Does It Mean to Have Your Soul Restored? (pt. 2)



The question I have posed, what does it mean to have your soul restored, is an easy one – and a difficult one. Perhaps a first answer would include the return of our soul to God's intended original condition. Surely restoration of a soul would include its return to its former dignity, if we speak in terms of returning to the glory of a soul as created by God.

This idea of restoration is what we, as followers of Christ, recognize as the ultimate plan of our Father. Glimpses of heaven as recorded in Revelation show us the restoration of all to God's original plan. Acts 3:21 tells us that God is in the process of restoring all things.

The difficult part of defining restoration of a soul comes when we take a deep look into the mysteries of God.

Restoration is a process, perhaps not so easily defined as we might first suspect.

Every human soul is unique. Every soul has a story which encompasses the fullness of its history. Every human story includes pain, suffering, and the effects of the fall of man and sin which leave the soul wounded and scarred.

How do you feel about scars? In the natural, I don't really like mine. I have scars from car wrecks, bicycle wrecks and motorcycle wrecks (yes, I had my own little cycle when I was much younger!). None of those wrecks were intentional, of course, but they are part of my story.

I have a nice little scar from cutting myself with an Alka Seltzer bottle back when Alka Seltzer came in a glass bottle. I have a scar from the first time I slipped behind my mother's back and shaved my legs while at a friend's house. Let me tell you that razors have improved!

I have a scar from my polio immunization. In fact, I have quite a few scars. You can see them and if you asked, I could recount some of the story of my life while telling you my 'stories'.

All of my scars represent things which have happened during my life. I never intended to get wounded. Some of them represent my own sinful choices, some my carelessness, poor decisions, or immaturity.

Some of them represent things which happened to me by the hands of others.

None of my scars hurt any longer but when my injuries first happened, they were indeed painful. Then healing occurred. Restoration.

And while I would like to wipe away all my scars and have a perfectly scar-less body, I am unable to do so.

One look into heaven shows me my Savior with his scars still intact. Why did God choose to leave the scars on Jesus? Surely Jesus' restoration to the right hand of God could have included (and would have if most of us had made the decision) the wiping away of the scars. But the scars of Jesus tell the story of the ultimate restoration. All of our restoration is based on the work represented by the scars of Jesus.

When I fall at his feet one day and experience His wounding for my transgressions, his scars will not cause me to

feel shame for my sins but incredible gratitude for his willingness to purposefully experience the ultimate pain for me. I will be able to see in depth my own inability to pay for my sins and receive in fullness the gift of his sacrifice.

Dare we enter into the mystery? Can we embrace restoration as a process that ends with our scars intact?

As I've looked with new eyes into my own story, I have found that there were elements of my own 'truth' that I had banished into the back room, sometimes consciously and sometimes unconsciously. I have been learning that the wounds that are a part of my story don't really heal until I allow God to touch those places in His light.

Can you accept your own story as a part of your own glorious restoration, realizing that while we don't glory in our sin, we can glory in the way God works everything together for our own good?

Can you tell your story to a trusted other and have kindness and compassion on your own heart as God does?

Can you live in the truth of your story and believe that none of it is wasted with God, but that it all belongs?

Can you embrace contradiction and paradox and believe that your restoration is a valuable process in which you will find more of God's heart and your own?

Can you find a beauty in your scars? Perhaps there is another whose restoration will draw on the strength of your own healing process.

Scars in heaven.

Oh, God's ways are not my own. His definition of restoration doesn't always match my own, but as I journey on with Him, I am growing in my understanding of his value system. I am beginning to be able to look at my own wounds and scars and experience acceptance as a part of restoration.

Stay tuned for more thoughts...

You can also find this article published on [What Does It Mean to Have Your Soul Restored? \(pt. 2\)](#), and on the tag pages [Acts 3:21](#), [heaven](#), [Psalm 23](#), [restoration](#), [revelation](#), [scars](#).