

**“Recovery”**  
**By Brother Kenneth Ray**  
**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Have you ever had an accident? Ever scraped your knee? If so, then you needed to go through some form of recovery. It's a necessary part of life and a Christian walk. Sometimes we back up; sometimes we go too slow; sometimes we don't go slow enough. We do things that may have consequences between us and our maker. Sometimes that's good. When we think of consequences, we generally think about bad consequences, but not all consequences are bad. All of it is so that you can be reconciled.

Believe it or not, God's not trying to get you to come to church on Sunday morning; He's trying to get you to pray on Monday morning. He's trying to get you to gather together with other believers. Have you noticed that, in the New Testament, they always went from house to house? Now, today, I am a house; I am the temple of the Holy Ghost. I should be going from house to house. I'm going to come to your house, even if you don't come to mine.

**Recovery**—regaining of something lost or stolen. (2) return to health

Have you ever had anything lost or stolen? Maybe you've lost your joy. Maybe somebody else has said or done something to rain on your parade; it causes a reaction in your feelings or your emotions. Sometimes God patiently tells us that we need to get right. Sometimes God just rips the flesh off. That's not comfortable, but it's needed. God wants us to be able to recover.

**Recover**—to cover again or renew (2) to catch or save one's self from a slip, stumble, self-betrayal

**God goes where you go:**

*Matthew 18:20 ...where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I...*

We see that when two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, He is in the midst of them. Let's look at the opposite side of that: What about when two or three are gathered NOT in Jesus' name? Does God not see and know the heart of man as well as his thoughts and reasoning. Maybe we're looking; maybe we're wondering. The Word of God tells us:

*1 Chronicles 28:9 ...the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations...*

*1 Corinthians 2:10 ...the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

We like to live on the surface. That may be good for fishing (in fishing staying in the shallows is generally a good thing), but in God that just gets you scorched from being too close to the source of the heat.

*Revelation 2:23 ... I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts...*

From the evidence—if this were a court of law, I would say that Jesus has proved that He knows and understands us very, very well.

### God's loving pursuit:

David in the Psalms gives us these words:

*Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...*

Our limitations keep us from recognizing the One who came to save us. Our limitations: We don't understand God's will; our own free will (that's a limitation? sure, because we sometimes do what we want, instead of what God wants). We even doubted His presence—and sometimes we still do. How does Jesus deal with our doubts? He follows us: Goodness and mercy shall follow me... Sometimes He puts a little pressure on us; turns up the heat. Sometimes we feel a little stress. There's good stress and there's bad stress: good stress makes you do what you need to do; bad stress makes you stop trying. We have doubts and we have limitations, but He follows us.

*James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...*

I don't quite know how to emphasize this, but let me tell you that I have this next part written in all caps in my notes: WITH WHOM IS NO VARIABLENESS NEITHER SHADOW OF TURNING. Our moods may shift, but God's doesn't. We had some bad weather yesterday; it was gloomy, and it got dark at 4:00 PM. Really? I just wanted to go home and lie on the couch without the TV. Our minds may change, but God's doesn't. Our devotion may falter, but God never does. Even if you are faithless, He is still faithful.

*2 Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*

What's that got to do with recovery? because when we're not faithful, we end up going places we're not supposed to be. Why was I there? because my relationship with God was not what it should have been. What I was doing wasn't wrong in and of itself, but it isn't where I was supposed to be. Or, I may be in the right place, but not for the right reason: If I'm coming to church more than I'm serving God; if I'm coming to church to hear Andy and Sonia sing... He is a sure God, and because He is a sure God, David could say, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Can I say that? Can you? Are you sure?

Do I need both? Yes; not goodness alone for we are sinners and in need of mercy. Not mercy alone, for we are fragile and in need of goodness. A man (F. B. Meyer) once wrote: "Goodness to supply every want, mercy to forgive every sin; goodness to provide, mercy to pardon."

Think of the days that lie ahead, what do you see? Bless the mothers that spend their days alone with only toddlers; God will be at your side. Bless those that have dead-end jobs; He will walk you through loneliness; He will take your hand. Not some; not most; all your days. When so many see God sitting in one place (on the throne), can you envision a God mobile and

active? Who follows us? Who pursues us? Who chases us? Who tracks us down and wins us over? Isn't this the God described in the Bible?

In the beginning; in the garden:

*Genesis 3:9 And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?*

How was God able to ask that? He had to show up. He followed Jonah into the storm, and he heard Jonah cry out from the belly of the fish, and He gave him recovery. He followed John into exile to Patmos. Lazarus was in a sealed tomb (I'm not talking about your house), Jesus followed him into death. Are we spiritually dead? He is calling your name. You're going to die, but it doesn't have to be today. Peter denied the Lord and went fishing; Jesus followed him in spite of his failure.

Have you sensed Him following you? We often miss Him. He is there to give you recovery. Let go the doubts, weights, fear, and misunderstandings. You can trust God; it may not be easy for some, but it's not as difficult as you make it out to be. Trust your faith and not your feelings, because you don't feel spiritual each day. Measure your value through God's eyes, not your own. Make sure that you get a routine checkup with Doctor Jesus.

*1 John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.*

There are two kinds of sin: There is sin unto death, and there is sin not unto death. Get off your high horse! If you haven't blasphemed the Holy Ghost, then you can still have recovery.

See the big picture and not the small.

*1 Kings 8:49 Then hear Thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven...*

In the military, we would start such a request with the words, "Respectfully request..." So, this passage would be, "respectfully request recovery."

*Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*

You need recovery? We all need recovery. Maybe you don't right now, but you will. Believe, ask (in faith believing) and receive.

