

I. Prophetic Destiny

- A. We are all very familiar with the theme of the unique gifts and callings of God that He gives according to His wisdom and plan to bring His church to the fullness of love and destiny that He intended for her. God uses this same dynamic of unique callings and gifts for larger corporate groups (we call churches) within a region or sphere of influence for this same purpose.
- B. The theme and ministry of inner healing and freedom for the heart has clearly and continually been highlighted to the leadership team of this church family for the last 20 years. Throughout our prophetic history the Lord has revealed that the primary reason for this is because He has set Springs and the surrounding area apart to be an area of refuge and restoration.
- C. Over the years healing/deliverance has taken its rightful place as one of our core values and it is our desire to continue to take this invitation seriously and respond with intentionality in the days to come. This sermon series was intentionally named “Upholding a Culture of Freedom” because that is exactly our hope.

II. Defining and pursuing a Culture of Freedom

- A. Culture Defined – The customs and values of a people group that is manifested in their way of life and identity. The very definition of culture has some immediate implications that we must recognize and ask ourselves if we are truly fostering a culture of freedom within the Restoration church family.
 - 1. Community Value - Culture is an entire people group or in our case church family rather than a select group within a larger group. What this means for us is that everyone participates at some level to encourage, equip, and participate in healing and freedom in their life. A good example of this is our culture of prophetic, pursuit of the gifts of the spirit, prayer and worship, and lifegroups.
 - 2. Fully Inclusive - Culture also transcends age, background, and experience level. In other words if our children, or teens, or people who have only been with us for a few months are not encouraged, equipped, and participating at some level then we don't have a culture of freedom.
 - 3. Lifestyle not Event – Culture by definition also demands that healing and freedom intentionality and ministry is not just a unique thing we do in corporate settings on Sunday or at lifegroups but rather something we do in every sphere of life, at home, at work, or on vacation.

4. Sustained – Lastly, a culture is only a culture if it is sustained through various seasons of circumstances, settings, and situational changes.
- B. The various demands of the definition of a culture by default finds its expression in values rather than methodology. For us here at Restoration that means that we must not allow ourselves to define the ministry of healing and freedom as happening only in the context of the methodology of “cleansing stream” or “restoring the foundations”. Programs are identified through their unique methodology, culture on the other hand is identified and unique through the means of values.
1. This does not mean that we do not recognize and celebrate the great value of the training and ministry that happens through the methodology of “cleansing stream”. It does mean that we must recognize and celebrate other methodologies of healing and freedom to be expressions that facilitate value of healing and freedom.

III. Pressing Towards the Goal (Phil. 3:12-16)

- A. Goal - Our goal is to intentionally cultivate a culture of freedom here at Restoration that will position us to partner with the fuller prophetic destiny of the body of Christ in this city to be area of refuge and restoration for the broken hurting.
- B. Press – The original Greek word Paul uses to describe the intentionality that He is pursuing the fullness of life and destiny literally means to “pursue with abandon”. Its no surprise that Paul follows his exhortation to press toward the goal with the idea of being mindful. In order to walk in the reality of pressing we must first be mindful to do it.
1. Intercede – For leaders, grace to grow in a culture of freedom, vision, personal and corporate understanding.
 2. Participate – In ministry opportunity’s both giving and receiving, equipping opportunities, conversations and q/a concerning freedom and inner healing, allow room for growth and correction.
- “God wont do our part, and we cant do His Part” – Mike Bickle*
- C. Don’t Miss the Journey – When there is a clear goal in mind its easy to succumb to disillusionment or even rage concerning the lack of the goal being accomplished. Its very important to keep in mind that all we can do is be intentional to position ourselves for fullness but it’s the Lord who brings us to maturity and fullness.

1. God does not give us individual or corporate destinies solely in order to accomplish His purposes through us on the earth. He gives us destinies and callings because He longs to connect us to the friendship and partnership we were made for that is forged in the journey.