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## Monday

Gal. 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.

One interesting facet of God's call to restore the broken brother is that *God calls the people of the church to restore*. That is, this ministry is delegated to the church not carried out by the angels or even by the Spirit of God. Restoration is a healing, teaching, and loving ministry that rests at the heart of being 'family of God.' God did not call us to be 'lone rangers,' but rather a community of grace and caring. For whom are you caring? Whom are you restoring? Pray that we will be a church for restoring people: a healing, teaching, loving place.

## Tuesday

Gal. 6:3-4 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But each one must examine his own work.

The temptation to compare becomes the sin of comparing, condemning, and complaining against a brother. Extreme caution must be taken in one's own heart against using the brokenness of another to falsely exalt oneself. It is the 'human' way. It is a work of the flesh to make myself feel secure by looking at another's misstep. God warns us concerning this false evaluation. If you are going to measure yourself against another, then measure yourself against the stature of Jesus. Then you will see yourself for what you are. Then you will find yourself humble enough to help heal a brother or sister caught in trespass.

## Wednesday

Gen. 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Pride is a dangerous thing. It was at the heart of the first sin. Satan said to the couple, "you will be like God." Such pride blinds us and binds us. The fallen have fallen because of pride and often fail to find restoration because of a continuing prideful attitude. By its nature restoration requires submission. There must be a surrendering of pride accompanied by a willingness to hear others and follow their wisdom. Amazingly, we often recognize that pride caused our fall, but fail to consider that our pride may be hindering our healing.

## Thursday

2 Cor. 1:3-4 Blessed be the God..., who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

The broken bone may become denser at the site of the break and therefore stronger, if given the proper time and care in healing. So the broken man or woman, given the proper time and care, may become stronger at the place of their brokenness. Too little time, too little healing, and the place of the break is prone to further damage, perhaps irreparable damage. Do not despise the time and care taken in restoration. Do not shortchange the process in yourself or another by demanding 'a place of display'. God is far more concerned with the restoration of wholeness than with the restoration of place.

## Friday

Gal. 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.

One 'caught' in sin is hurt, broken in mind, spirit, sometimes body as well. To recognize the brokenness, agreeing with God's declaration that sinful behavior is 'sin' is not ungodly judgment. Instead, it is akin to a doctor recognizing cancer, or EMT recognizing a wreck victim. No, indeed we are not to condemn a brother or withhold the remedies of grace, but we are to recognize when another is 'caught' in sin and to confront the sin and seek to bring restoration. Some Christians transgress by self-righteousness, but more are transgressing through indifference.