***Radical Restoration* Summary**

The third and final book that Dr. Kingsbury wrote regarding helping the addicted and those who would be sponsoring, leading, and mentoring them is called, *The Ministry of Restoring Lives – Radical Restoration.* This book is based on Galatians 6:1 and tells us how to restore such a one in the spirit of meekness considering ourselves lest we also be tempted.

* **Restore** – The greek word is Katartizo, which is translated as perfect, mending, fitted, framed, joined, prepared, together, and of course the word restored.

The imagery that’s brought to mind as I read these words is clear. Whenever somebody has strayed away from the Lord we are commanded in the Scriptures to help bring them back and mend their broken pieces. The fallen Christian needs more than just an open door when they return. Don’t get me wrong, an encouraging smile and the open door welcome is needed. However, it’s crucial for someone to be willing to step in, and aid in mending them through their healing process. This mending is what the Bible refers to as restoring. There needs to be a place where the student can forgive themselves and forgive the wrongs that were done to them. Too often fallen Christians are left alone to try and put back together a shattered life or restore themselves the best they can. This isn’t how God intended for it to be. He intended for other Christians to work together to help restore people. As we read Galatians 6 we will learn many things about restoration. The Bible says in Galatians 6:1, “*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault...”* this could be you or it could be me. None of us should have the attitude that it can’t happen to us. It is important for us to be meek as we try to help others who have fallen.

**How do we approach those who have fallen?**

Should we ignore them, make fun of them, shame them, criticize them, and isolate them – let’s see what the Bible says should be done to them. Galatians 6:1, “...*ye which are spiritual* ***restore such an one***...” We are commanded to help restore them – we are not the Great Physician, yet we are the “good nurses” standing by with the truth from God’s Word on how they can find restoration. Will you be willing to take them through the process of restoration?

**So, how are we to help restore those who need restoration?**

1. Through our **demeanor** – **Galatians 6:1.** It’s important to have the spirit of meekness towards those God’s given us to minister to. If you are not showing love to your student, they will turn to the world in order to receive that love and acceptance.

The Bible says in Galatians 6:1, “*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one* ***in the spirit of meekness****;”* Our **demeanor** is so important. The student that we are helping to restore should never feel negative vibes from us. If they do, they will turn to the world for love and acceptance. Steve Curington and his success story began when he walked through the doors of North Love Baptist Church and Doug Stedola, a deacon, came up to him and welcomed him back by saying, “Welcome home Steve. We are glad that you are here.” But there is more to that story, Doug prayed for Steve; he looked for any and all opportunities to encourage him, even until the very week that Steve passed away from a massive heart attack Doug was a cheerleader for Steve. It’s important for us to have that kind of spirit, that kind of demeanor. Let’s not go around and gossip about someone who is trying to recover themselves out of the snare of the devil; but rather be meek and gentle to those God’s placed in our life.

**However, RU seeks to be in full compliance with the law**.

Therefore, if ever legal issues should arise when dealing with students, you may need to address these issues with your authority. For instance, if a student talks about child abuse, there is a 48 hour requirement to report the information to the proper authorities. I would recommend that you to go to the Pastor of your local church in order to determine the best way to handle these types of situations. Although they shared this information with you in confidence, you must share with them that you cannot keep the information a secret, and need to speak with your authorities on how to further handle the matter. Also if a student comes to you and is suicidal it is important for you not to leave that student to make unwise decisions by themselves. They may need professional help outside of your ability. There has been many times in the RU class where the student doesn’t have a family member or friend to which we could go to and talk about this issue with them and leave the student in their care. So, in this case we would ask the student if we could take them to a hospital and get them the help they need. RU Recovery has always taken a strong stance on the idea that we want to partner with the professionals in our community in order to effectively help our students. We want to help them from a spiritual standpoint, but we aren’t going to be negligent to the physiological things that happen within the mind and heart of a student. If a student comes to you and they are taking some kind of prescribed medication it is **never** appropriate for a sponsor, mentor, leader, or helper to advise them to get off of a medication that was prescribed to them by a doctor. We should encourage them to only take what was prescribed. If a student seems to be out of balance on their medication, you could always ask your student if you could tag along on their next doctor appointment and explain your concerns to the doctor.

**All legal issues should never been done with a boastful attitude.**

We don’t have all the answers. In fact, the truth is, many students come with questions and instead of giving them the answer, a wise sponsor is going to send them back to their daily journal and encourage them to write that question down and seek wisdom from God. As their sponsor you should agree to do the same thing, and then the next week you should discuss what you both found out about that truth of God’s Word concerning that specific question. You will be amazed at how the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the preaching of the Word of God will soften the heart of your student to best receive the truth that God has for them. Remember you are not the Savior – the Lord is. So let’s point them to the Lord, let’s get them searching the Scriptures, summarizing messages and looking for the truths from God to be delivered to them.

1. We should have the right **defense** – **Galatians 6:1**.

It’s important to realize that we are what we are by the grace of God. We need to be careful and ready lest we also be tempted. We need to be on our guard and ready to be used of God. It would be a tragedy for a sponsor to fall into the same addiction that they’re trying to help their student out of.

Not only should we have the right demeanor, but we should also have the right **defense**. Galatians 6:1 goes on to say, “...***considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”*** It’s important to realize that we are what we are by the grace of God and to be careful and ready lest we also be drawn away. We must always be on guard and ready for God to use us in this capacity. It would be a tragedy for a sponsor to be chosen and to fall into the same addiction that you are trying to help the student out of. We must have the right defense.

1. We need to have a **desire** to bear one another’s burdens – **Galatians 6:2**.

Galatians 6:2 says, *“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”* This tells us that we need to have a **desire**. We must bear someone else's burden and carry their weight. This is not to say that we don't have a burden for the student, as we also have our own burdens to carry, but it is only for a season we need to learn how to carry their burdens too. This does not mean that we are going to enable them to do wrong. Usually, if you give drug addicts money they are going to buy drugs. Becoming creative to find ways to meet the needs of the addict without enabling them to continue doing wrong is imperative.

I read a story about Sadhu Sundar Singh, a Hindu who converted to Christianity. He became a missionary to his people in India. Late one afternoon Sadhu was traveling on foot through the Himalayas with a Buddhist monk. It was bitterly cold and the wind felt like sharp blades slicing into their skins. Night was fast approaching when the monk warned Sadhu that they were in danger of freezing to death if they did not reach the monastery before darkness fell. Suddenly, on a narrow path above a steep precipice, they heard a cry for help. At the foot of the cliff lay a man, fallen and badly hurt. The monk looked at Sadhu and said, "Do not stop. God has brought this man to his fate. He must work it out for himself. Let us hurry on before we, too, perish." But Sadhu replied, "God has sent me here to help my brother. I cannot abandon him." The monk continued trudging off through the whirling snow, while the missionary clambered down the steep embankment. The injured man's leg was broken and he could not walk, Sadhu formed a sling with his blanket and tied the man on his back. With great difficulty he climbed back up the cliff, drenched by now in perspiration. Doggedly, Sadhu made his way through the deepening snow and darkness. It was all he could do to follow the path. But he persevered, though faint with fatigue and overheated from exertion. Finally, he saw ahead the lights of the monastery. Then, for the first time, Sadhu stumbled and nearly fell - but not from weakness- he had stumbled over an object lying in the snow-covered road. Slowly he bent down on one knee and brushed the snow off the object. It was the body of the monk, frozen to death. Years later a disciple of Sadhu's asked him, "What is life's most difficult task?" Without hesitation Sadhu replied, "To have no burden to carry." It’s important for us to stop and carry somebody else’s burden. We must have the right desire.

1. We need to have the right **discernment** – realizing that our own nothingness, our own righteousness is as filthy rags and anything that we do is done by the power of the Spirit of God or else it is nothing.

Next we need to have the right **discernment**. Realizing that our own nothingness, our own righteousness is filthy rags and anything that we do as sponsors is done by the power of the Spirit of God or else it is nothing. We are not better than anyone. When I study the Bible I find that Paul was a murder, Moses was a murderer, and Peter turned back, failed, and cursed. Remember we need them and the student needs us.

1. It’s going to take the right **deportment** – realizing that everything we do is an example to the student who follows us. We need to be sure that we are constantly examining ourselves – we don’t want to lead them astray. **Mark 9:42** is not just speaking of age, but also stages in life. As leaders we are in a position to restore, to rescue, to deliver, and to help the fallen. If we have sin in our own life that hasn’t been brought before the Lord it could hinder those who are following us.

It’s going to take a right **deportment**. Be sure that you are constantly examining yourself. This deportment is realizing that everything that I do is an example to the student who is following me. I don’t want to lead them astray. The Bible says in Mark 9:42, *“And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.”* We have to understand that it’s not just talking about age, but it’s also talking about stage. We as leaders and sponsors are in a position to restore, to rescue, to deliver, and to help the fallen. If you have sin in your own life that hasn’t been brought before the Lord it could hinder those who are following you, and how discouraging and dishonoring would it be to the plan God has set for you.

1. We need to have **discretion**.

 Someday we all will give an answer for the life we live. As the sponsor you should begin teaching your student that they will be responsible as well; responsible to God and responsible for others who follow them.