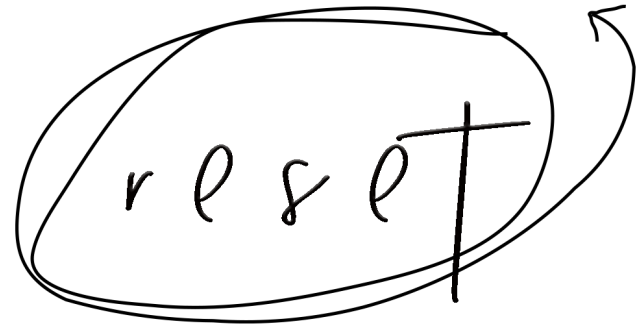


RENEW. REBUILD. RETURN. REVEAL.
RESTORE. REIMAGINE. RESET.
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RENEW. REBUILD. RETURN. REVEAL.
RESTORE REIMAGINE RESET.

Living It Out



Fortnight starting Sunday 9 August

This message and 'Living It Out' unpacks some of the ingredients/conditions to invite RESET in your life; bringing Jesus to the centre of your life in community again.

READ

- *Transcript of Scott's message*
 - [Click here to download the PDF](#)
 - [Click here to watch the sermon on YouTube \[available from Monday 10 August\]](#)
 - [Click here to listen to the Podcast \[available from Monday 10 August\]](#)
- Haggai 1:7-15
- Psalm 119:1-16

REFLECT

If today you are thinking about adding Jesus to your life - I fear you will end up being severely disappointed with the outcome - because you can't sufficiently add Jesus to your existing life to fully appreciate what He came to bring. You have to really start again. In fact, you could say salvation is making Jesus the hub of your life.

If you are a Christian today but you are frustrated with your lack of progress or what feels like a lack of transformation as a disciple, I wonder if you would consider that the problem is partly because Jesus is more of a 'spoke' in your life, not a 'hub'?

Scott has outlined some requirements to RESET your life, putting God at the centre:

Reset requires you to bring you

Only you can give careful thought to your ways; only you can bring what is needed to build a spiritual centre to your life. Growing in Jesus happens in community, but neither community nor the pastor can change the necessity of a personal, daily investment in your relationship with Jesus.

God is opposed to earning, but He's not opposed to your effort. And to be more than a cultural Christian, you have to bring your whole mind and will to the relationship.

Q. *God instructs us to give careful thought to our ways. What do you give careful thought to?*

Practical Exercise: *Set aside some specific time over the next fortnight to give careful thought to the way you spend your time and resources by doing this exercise:*

Grab a piece of paper and write down some of the things you thought about today? Where did your train of thought go when you weren't doing something else or were you so flat out that it didn't happen? Draw out how you spend your time/what you thought about and represent them as different sized circles: the bigger the circle, the more time you spend on it. What stands out to you looking at your life circles?

Reset requires a humbling

1 Peter 5:5 says God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble. And as much as we resist it, the reset usually requires some level of humiliation or sense of coming to the end of our own resources or believing you are in control. Because He loves us, God has purpose in our barrenness, in our lack or in our state of discontent – to wean us off substitutes and lead us into dependency. To humble us is to weaken the immense power of pride in our lives, and that is essential to the reset.

Q. In what area are you most likely to struggle with humility? Where do you tend to judge other people the most? In what ways are you overly self-focused, either with pride, insecurity, self-promotion, or anxiety/worry?

Reset requires a hearing

Some people just don't expect that God is speaking today. "I've had countless times where a clear thought appears, or a dream seems to shout at me, or another person has preached and another prophesied over me and all those words I've had to weigh up and consider if it's just me or just God. But the primary way God keeps on speaking to every generation is His timeless Word of God." This is why we are encouraging you to open your Bible every day of the week. You need all of God's Word in your life more than you need the news or your Facebook feed.

The reset needs the conditions of open teachable hearts to what God may need to say to you. It's so easy to hear a challenging sermon like this and say, "mmm such-and-such really needs to hear that..." What if you need to hear this? What if Haggai is God's specific word to you?

Q. Are you willing to listen to Biblical instruction and correction? Is there any area in your life where you really want to go your own way and are struggling to walk in humble obedience to the Lord? What in your life is competing with obedience to God or the duties He has given you?

Reset requires the element of awe

God is not looking for you to obey Him in the reset out of some kind of religious obligation, peer pressure, guilt or repayment plan. You may be surprised to hear me say, then, that the basis of a reset is the fear of the Lord: "and the people feared the Lord". The fear of God is not fashionable these days because we don't want a glorious God who leaves us undone as much as we want a domesticated God who doesn't ask for much, seems to always agree with us, and is our BFF.

Q. When was the last time you experienced a genuine sense of awe in relation to God?

Reset requires active responses

I love getting stirred up. We are emotional beings, made to have an emotional response to His glory and presence. Sometimes it's emotional hype; but if it is truly God, the response is not that we simply get stirred. We can get addicted to being stirred and neglect being mobilised.

If Jesus is to be the 'hub', then all the other dimensions of your life would be connected to and influenced by Jesus. So what does that mean for your daily life, where you invest your passion, your time, your energy? What does that mean for how you work in your workplace tomorrow? What you dream about? What does that mean for you as you enter the school gate, or as you enter retirement?

Q. What is your vision / picture of your life with God? What would a daily investment into your relationship with Jesus look like practically? Who is someone that could lovingly help you to be accountable?

PRAY

Resetting takes intentionality: set aside some times each day (for example, 1 in the morning, 1 in the middle of the day and 1 before you go to bed) to practice the **Breath Prayer**. After a week, reflect on what difference the practice has made.

Use our prayer document as a guide

APPLY

If you are in a Small Group, think about a question or area that challenged / encouraged you and what you plan to do then share it next time your group meets. If you aren't in a Small Group, share this with one or two people who can keep you on track.