The Promise of Requested Restoration

2 Chronicles 7:1-16
Speaker: Bishop Aaron L. Harris

Key Theme

God's promise of restoration is available to all who seek Him. Even when hardship comes, it is not to destroy us, but to call us back to God's presence and blessing.

1. Solomon's Temple Dedication

- Solomon completed the temple, a task his father David could not finish.
- God's acceptance was shown by fire from heaven and His glory filling the temple.
- The people worshipped, offered sacrifices, and celebrated God's goodness.

2. God's Promise of Restoration

- After the dedication, God appeared to Solomon and promised restoration if His people turn back to Him.
- Hardships (drought, locusts, pestilence) may come when people stray, but God's intent is always to restore, not destroy.

Four Steps to Restoration (2 Chronicles 7:14)

1. **Humble Yourself:** Recognize your need for God.
2. **Pray:** Make time for sincere communication with God.
3. **Seek God's Face:** Focus on God, often through fasting.
4. **Turn from Wicked Ways:** Repent and change direction.

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God's Response:

- He will hear from heaven, forgive sin, and heal the land for those who follow these steps.

3. Application for Today

- **Generational Blessings:** Celebrate progress made possible by previous generations, especially during Black History Month.
- **Your Body as God's Temple:** God's presence is with you always—not just in a building.
- **Private Revelation:** God often speaks in quiet moments after public worship.
- **God's Constant Presence:** God promises never to leave or forsake you, blessing you in every circumstance.

Assignments / Next Steps

- Reflect on the four steps to restoration and identify specific actions for each in your life.
- Practice fasting during Lent to disconnect from distractions and focus on God.
- If you are unsure of your salvation or have walked away, pray the prayer of restoration.
- Practice gratitude for your blessings and for the sacrifices of those who came before you.

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