

# God's Repair Shop

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## Background

In the early hours of this morning (7<sup>th</sup> October 2022), I found myself thinking about God restoring us when we stray or are hurt. My thoughts jumped around a bit, so I've tried to sort them out here. I hope you find them useful.

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## Psalm 23<sup>1-3</sup> (NIV)

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, HE RESTORES MY SOUL. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

A TV programme I enjoy watching is *The Repair Shop* where people take items that are precious to them but need repair or restoration. These items often look to me as though they are only fit for the bin, but when they relate the story behind the item, I can understand why they have a sentimental value. Sometimes, the request is that it is restored to its original condition, other times, all that is wanted is for it to be made structurally sound and working but leaving the scratches and dents as they are part of the story. The experts then set about putting it back together, often doing more than requested, for example making a display case to protect it in the future.

Genesis 1<sup>26-27</sup> tells us that God made man in his own image. In other words, man was designed to be perfect. However, we see in Genesis 3 that sin entered the world and the relationship with God was damaged. Jesus gave us the opportunity for that relationship to be restored at Calvary if we choose to accept his forgiveness.

But even Christians can get off track and need restoration. God still holds us in his heart, but we can feel lost. If we turn to him, he will refresh the intimate relationship that he wants with us. Sometimes it is a complete restoration, but often the memories of what has happened remain until we join him, and he finally heals the wounds and wipe away the tears. These memories and scars will help us to understand others going through difficulties and support them.

On *The Repair Shop*, when the owner of the item returns to collect it, it is great to see the look of wonder and joy when they see the result of the expert's work. In Luke 15<sup>7</sup>, Jesus says, "... *there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*" If you're feeling that your relationship with the Father needs refreshing, visit God's "Repair Shop" and get heaven rejoicing.

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7<sup>th</sup> October 2022