

April 4, 2021

Scott's Thoughts



“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.” (Psalm 51:12, NRSV)

I read this week of a former Marine pilot who restored a Japanese Zero from WWII that was found

in the jungle after 60 years. You can imagine the size of that project. He proved the restoration was complete and successful when he actually flew the plane. From time to time, I have tried my hand at restoration work on cars, motorcycles, houses, and furniture.

Restoring cars is my first love, but I no longer have all the tools it takes to do the job. Regardless of the item being restored, there is a process that needs to be followed. The first inclination is always to see if the job can be done without taking it apart. If something has only slight damage, I might be able to do so but chances are I'll wind up wasting a lot of time and must disassemble it after all. After assessing it, I like to remove everything that is loose or needs to be reconditioned to make the job much better. Some parts may be so far gone that they must be replaced or replicated. This really adds to the cost of the restoration, but it is necessary so that the finished product will be fully functional. Restoration can be a long slow process often taking hundreds of hours and years to complete from start to finish. Many projects are never finished because of the real-world cost of the project and lack of perseverance.

I know the TV programs show an incredible amount of work in a very short period of time.

They can do that through the magic of video editing. But a great deal of restoration work is done by a lone individual with an occasional helper. Most of the time the budget allows the work to be done a little this month, then a little more next month. Seldom are all the resources available from the start of the project.

However, things are not all that need restoration. Our lives end up in a mess and just like an old car or table some lives are in much worse condition than others. People are much more difficult to restore than inanimate objects. We try all kinds of remedies for our restoration, which like an old car or table, also takes time and many years.

Fortunately, we have a God who can take people who are in a horrible shape and make them clean, whole, and new. The changes may seem radical at first, but He's patient with us knowing restoration is a lifelong process. We must deal with the basics before we can move on to more difficult issues. However, in God's sight, our restoration is complete. Just as I might love an old car that is still not finished and can see in my mind what it will one day become, God loves us, flawed as we are, and He sees what we will one day become while He continues to work on us.

“I have heard Ephraim grieving, ‘You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined, like an untrained calf; bring me back that I may be restored, for you are the Lord my God.’” (Jeremiah 31:18, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott