

**August 29, 2021**  
**Ezra 3:1-13**  
**Restoration**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

The phrase, “man of God” occurs 75 times in the OT. It is used of Moses, and David. If the people you know were to write an eulogy for you at the end of your life, would they say, first and foremost, he/she was a man or woman of God?

The people rebuilt the altar in stark fear of the people around them, yet, they did it. In the face of danger, they obeyed God, this absolute trust in God.

Note that the revival of the services preceded the erection of the temple itself. It’s not the building, it’s the worship that counts.

When the builders laid the foundation the Levites marked the joyous occasion with instruments to praise the Lord. They sang truth, He is good, He is love, He loves His people Israel. The word “love” in verse 11 is “hesed” which signifies “covenantal love.” This exists forever with His people Israel. A good translation is that His love is “steadfast.” They sang to the Lord! God likes music, He designed it. “speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual song, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:19 CSB)

**Application:**

This restart of worship for Israel occurred because they had gotten off track. Disobedience resulted in chastisement. Eventually repentance from the heart of the people led to restoration. Oneness of heart abounded and they experienced Gods hand of favor of upon their lives. Any time a person or a group of people sets out to do something great for God, they must be clean vessels with proper motivation for the task at hand. To take on a great task for God requires total obedience, obedience that comes from the heart. Every thing attempted for God must have the central focus of true worship. The Bible speaks to this by teaching that one is to worship in spirit and in truth. This too must be accompanied by UNITY among those who have put their hands to the work. They cannot be divided in any manner of purpose, desire, or personal motivations. Oneness of heart for the explicit goal of worship of God. When this occurs, the people will ultimately reflect on the love of the Lord for His people. Celebration will break forth as the united people worshiping God see His hand at work in their lives. There will be so much joy that singing will break out, words sung to reflect the glory of God. Even with a legitimate cause for fear of the unknown, and the enemies surrounding them they will go forth in unwavering faith. We can all take a lesson from this account and apply it to our lives personally, corporately as a body of believers and even as a nation. But, it will take a prepared heart for a proper restart.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.” ( **Psalm 51:10 NASB**)