

Come Back To The Lord

Hosea 6:1-6

6 “Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. ³ Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.” ⁴ “What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. ⁵ Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth— then my judgments go forth like the sun. ⁶ For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

A. The Bible Is A Book of Invitations

1. From Genesis to Revelation, God offers invitations.
2. God’s arms are always open to the repentant.

B. The Call To Return To The Lord (V.1-2)

1. Hosea recognized our need for God & calls his people to return to the Lord.
2. The people of Israel were suffering the consequences of their rebellion.
3. Israel is called to return to God after experiencing His discipline.
4. They acknowledge that only God can heal and restore.
5. God’s correction is not for destruction but for redemption.
6. There is the promise of revival & restoration.
7. Just as a doctor treats wounds, God heals the brokenness of our lives.
8. An invitation to those who have known the closeness of the Lord.
 - a. To "Return" means to go back to where you were, a better time.
 - b. Do you remember a time of closer fellowship with the Lord?
 - c. A time when the joy of the Lord was more real? prayer more meaningful?
 - d. A time when church services were more exciting?
 - e. A time when you cared more for souls?
9. These believers had left their first love for the Lord.
10. Many today choose the love of the world over the love of God.

C. An Invitation to Those Who Have Felt the Chastening of the Lord

1. He disciplines those He loves (Heb. 12:5-6)
2. God restores life and renews His people.
3. Sin had become a way of life for these people (4:1-2)
4. An invitation to backsliders to come back to the Lord
5. God restores life and renews His people.
6. God loves us in spite of our backsliding
 - a. He will revive us & raise us up
 - b. We shall live in His sight

7. Seek to know God more deeply and live in the hope of His promises.
8. Like the morning rain refreshing the earth, God's presence renews our spirits.
9. The image of revival & raising up points to God's promise to renew His people.
10. Return to the Lord while you have time to respond to His call

D. God Is Committed To Us

1. In turn, God desires Total Commitment, not a Superficial Repentance.
2. A steadfast love, a committed love, not fleeting faithfulness.
3. Israel's love for God was inconsistent, like a mist that quickly vanishes.
4. Examine your own commitment, is it a shallow devotion?
5. Are you offering God true devotion or temporary passion?
6. A plant not watered consistently will die; so does a faith that's not nurtured.
7. God is Seeking an Ongoing Relationship.
8. The call is not just to return once but to "press on" in knowing the Lord.
9. God desires faithful love not a fleeting devotion.
10. A true relationship with God is built on steadfast love, not momentary emotions.
11. Christ was totally committed. He was torn and smitten for us (Isa. 53)
12. This shows the love Jesus has for us all. Do we return His love?
13. Do we show His love in what we do & how we interact with people?
14. Do we "share" with others of the love of God?
15. The primary human "organ" that shows our love isn't the mouth. It's our ears.
16. Listening to people doesn't mean we agree with everything they believe.
17. ... but it shows people that we care about *them personally*.

E. God's True Desire: Mercy Over Sacrifice (v. 6)

1. God values a genuine relationship over empty rituals.
2. Sacrifices without love and obedience mean nothing to God.
3. Pursue a life marked by mercy, compassion, and true knowledge of God.
4. A gift without love is meaningless, but love expressed in action pleases God.
5. Sacrifices were meant to reflect a heart devoted to God.
6. Israel performed rituals without true love.
7. God wants a heart of love, mercy, & relationship over empty religious acts.

F. Come to Him and He Will Restore Your Soul (Ps. 23)

1. God is always ready to heal, restore, and revive those who earnestly seek Him.
2. This is a call to authentic faith, returning to God with true repentance.
3. Acknowledge where we have strayed and seek His healing.
4. Commit to knowing him daily. Live out genuine love and mercy.
5. Spiritual growth requires ongoing pursuit of God's presence.
6. Our faith must be reflected in how we treat others.
7. God calls us to return to Him, not in words or rituals but in true, steadfast love.
8. May we press on to know Him deeply and live in faithful obedience.