

Solution to Study 0003

Scripture Text: Hosea 6:1-3

“Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.” (New King James Version)

“The people say, "Let's return to the LORD! He has hurt us, but he will be sure to heal us; he has wounded us, but he will bandage our wounds, won't he? In two or three days he will revive us, and we will live in his presence. Let us try to know the LORD. He will come to us as surely as the day dawns, as surely as the spring rains fall upon the earth.”

(Good News Bible)

Assignment

You were required to answer the questions below, using the scriptures provided.

A. What does it mean to return to God?

Hebrews 6:1; Isaiah 55:7.

- *To turn away from doing things that lead to death; and turn to God wholly*
- *To forsake our wicked (unChristlike) ways, and unrighteous thoughts, and turn to God.*

B. How does a backslider return to God?

Luke 15:11-28; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11; Proverbs 28:13; Matthew 3:7-8; Hosea 14:1-2; Joel 2:12-14.

1. *He must realize how far he has gone from God.*
2. *He must repent of his backsliding.*
3. *He must return home to God; not to a church, a pastor, but to God.*
4. *He must exhibit godly sorrow for his sins.*
5. *He must also confess his sins to God, and make up his mind to forsake sin.*
6. *His repentance must be evident.*
7. *He must take words of repentance to God.*
8. *He must repent with all his heart; with fasting; with weeping; with mourning (rend your hearts, not your clothes)*

C. Why should a backslider return to God?

Proverbs 13:15; 14:14; Isaiah 59:1-2; 30:15; Malachi 3:7.

1. *Things are hard for the backslider.*
2. *Backsliders always get what they deserve, which is punishment. Those who have returned to God what they don't deserve—God's goodness and kindness—which is the grace of God.*
3. *God hides His face from backsliders and His ears cannot hear their prayers.*
4. *Salvation for the backslider lies in him returning to God.*
5. *God will return to the backslider only after he has returned to God.*

D. What can we expect to see if a person has genuinely returned to God?

Hosea 6:1-3; Luke 15:20-24; Jeremiah 24:6-7.

Healing; Revival; Restoration; Refreshing; and a heart that seeks after God.

Conclusion

- 1) There are so many benefits in returning to God, but for some, this is something they just cannot do. Why? (*Hosea 5:4*)
Because they refuse to give up their wicked ways, and continue to keep in union with the spirit of whoredom (prostitution) and spiritual adultery. In other words, they are not loyal to God, or anyone for that matter; and are engaged in spiritual relations with many idols.
- 2) Based on the above scripture and our observations therefrom, what must happen if a person is to genuinely return to God?
 - *He must first give up on his old wicked ways;*
 - *His loyalty must be to God, and to God alone.*