

A Call to Return Home

5-Day Devotional



Day 1 — Even Now

Read: Joel 2:12–13

Two of the most hopeful words in Joel are “**Even now.**”

God's people had drifted. They had misplaced their priorities and trusted things that could not sustain them. Yet God's response was an invitation: “Return to Me.”

We sometimes think we need to clean ourselves up before returning to God. But

God isn't waiting for a better version of us. He wants our hearts.

Where have you slowly shifted from dependence upon God to dependence upon yourself?

Even now, you can return.

Reflect: Where am I living independently of God?

Pray: Father, reveal where I have drifted from dependence upon You. Thank You that Your invitation still stands. Today, I return my heart to You. Amen.

Day 2 — Remember Who Is Waiting

Read: Joel 2:13

Why should we return?

Because of the One waiting for us.

Joel describes God as merciful, compassionate, slow to anger, and filled with unfailing love.

Sometimes our reluctance to return reveals a distorted picture of God. We imagine disappointment when Scripture reveals compassion. We expect rejection when God offers mercy.

Returning begins by remembering God's character.

Reflect: Which characteristic of God—mercy, compassion, patience, or unfailing love—do you most need to trust today?

Pray: Lord, help me see You as You have revealed Yourself, not as my fears imagine You. Teach me to trust Your character and come home. Amen.

Day 3 — Return and Be Healed

Read: Hosea 6:1

“Come, let us return to the LORD.”

Israel had experienced the consequences of living independently of God. Yet Hosea's invitation wasn't simply to feel bad about their condition.

It was to return and be healed.

God loves us too much to bless our rebellion and call it freedom.

What needs to be surrendered within you? A habit? An attitude? A relationship? A plan you have never truly given to God?

Healing often begins when we stop defending our independence and surrender it.

Reflect: What am I holding onto that God is asking me to surrender?

Pray: Father, search my heart. Give me courage to surrender what I have been holding onto and trust Your healing work in me. Amen.

Day 4 — I Will Go Home

Read: Luke 15:17–24

The son had searched, wandered, lost—and finally **came to his senses**.

His great revelation?

He remembered his father.

Sometimes the greatest revelation isn't discovering something new. **It's remembering the Father we've been living without.**

The son expected to return as a servant. Instead, his father ran to him, embraced him, restored him, and celebrated him.

The son was thinking about behavior.

The Father was thinking about relationship.

Don't wait until you have cleaned yourself up.

Come home.

Reflect: Have I allowed failure or behavior to speak louder than my identity in Christ?

Pray: Father, thank You that Your grace is greater than my wandering. Help me receive Your embrace and live from my identity as Your child. Amen.

Day 5 — Abide Deeper

Read: John 15:5, 8

Coming home isn't the end of the journey.

It is a return to **abiding**.

Jesus doesn't ask us to manufacture spiritual fruit through greater effort. He tells us to remain connected to Him.

The fruit this world desperately needs cannot be manufactured by Christians trying harder. It is produced by Christians abiding deeper.

We return to the Father.

We abide in the Son.

We are transformed by the Spirit.

We bear fruit for the world.

And the Father receives the glory.

Reflect: What would abiding deeper in Christ look like for me today?

Pray: Jesus, teach me to abide in You. Holy Spirit, transform me so that my life produces fruit that reflects Jesus to the people around me. Father, receive the glory. Amen.