

2-12-2025...Return to Jesus

It can happen, without even realizing. Spiritual drift from fully alive to empty. Spiritual sleepwalking from abiding in Jesus, to drifting along absent minded of God.

Life gets hectic, your focus gets distracted, you get pre-occupied with yourself, and boom you skip your God times (quiet time or devotional time). You don't engage your bible, your prayers stop. Gratitude shrinks, and we move from feeling like daughters & sons to acting like orphans.

You still belong to God and your relationship will always be solid. As a Father, God will always love you and your adoption is permanent.

But your sense of intimacy, union, oneness. The fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, self control... Galatians 5:22-23) begins to fade and be replaced by the fruits of selfishness.

Jot down 3 words that describe what that feels like _____, _____, _____.

For me, I began to feel selfish, cranky and vulnerable.

An important skill in walking with Jesus is learning to return to Him quickly and completely. With confession and repentance and desire to be restored, the flow of the Spirit's power, and guidance and leadership is quickly restored.

We can return to God, trusting in his heart and goodness.

Movement 1 Reflect on these passages.

Isaiah 55:7

"let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him **return to** the Lord, that he may have

compassion on him, and **to** our **God**, for he will abundantly pardon."

Jeremiah 24:7

"I will give them a heart **to** know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their **God**, for they shall **return to** me with their whole heart."

Hosea 12:6

"So you, by the help of your **God, return**, hold fast **to** love and justice, and wait continually for your **God**."

Joel 2:13

"and rend your hearts and not your garments." **Return to** the LORD your **God**, for he is gracious and merciful, slow **to** anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster."

1 John 1:9

⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

In your past experience, what 3 words would you use to describe how it feels when you confess / repent and return to God. Jot them here _____, _____, _____.

After committing adultery with Bathsheba, and having her husband killed in battle, David became hard – hearted and resisted returning to God. Only when God sent Nathan the prophet to share an amazing word picture story did David's heart soften to repent. You can read the story in 2 Samuel 11 and 12.

Psalms 51 is David's journal entry of his return to God.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!*

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward
being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret
heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ *Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right^{tr} spirit within me.*

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would
give it;

you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

¹⁷ **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart,** O God, you
will not despise.

Movement 2

⇒ Spend a few minutes inviting God to lead
you in confession and returning.

Movement 3

⇒ Pray for your 3 VIP (very important people)
who you would love to see come to know
Jesus as rescuer and leader. Pray for
opportunities to bless and serve and love
on them. Pray God opens their eyes to his

goodness and what Jesus did for them on
the cross.

⇒ Pray that you grow quick to return if you
wander and that your life will shine and
show what a difference Jesus can make.

⇒ Pray for your neighborhood, and city, and
our country.

⇒ Pray as led for what's going on around the
world.

Bonus...

Check out this short video about why God
described David as a man after his own heart in
Acts 13:22.

<https://youtu.be/iu4kwohdIIE>