

THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD

Joel 2:12-17

The heartbeat of God is that His people would return to Him. 2:12-13a

- Return to God based on who He is, not based on who you are. 2:13b-14
- Return to God with urgent repentance. 2:15-16
- Return to God through an Intercessor. 2:17

further up, further in

1. Read Joel 2:11-13. How does the message about “the day of the Lord” prepare God’s people for the plea in 2:12-13? How can judgment prepare people for mercy today?
2. How do we see God’s heart for people to return to Him throughout the Bible? What passages stand out to you?
3. What does genuine repentance look like and how is it different from false repentance? What does it mean to “rend your heart”?
4. Read Psalm 51. What does repentance look like in terms of changing our hearts, our minds, and our lives?
5. Read Joel 2:13-14 and compare Exodus 34:6-7. Why must our return to God be based upon His character, and not on ourselves? (See also Mat 11:28-30)
6. Why must repentance be urgent? Why is non-urgent repentance problematic?
7. Read Joel 2:17. How does the priests intercession point towards Jesus? How does God identify with His people so that His reputation is bound up with us (see also Exo 32:12-14; Heb 2:17, 7:26-27, 10:19-23; 1 Tim 2:5-6)?
8. How did this message impact your life? Did the Lord prompt you to repent of any sin you feel comfortable sharing?