

Holy Spirit Promptings

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV) “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

As he thought about the distance between himself and his wife, he knew that he had been wrong. He’d been unkind and harsh and had said some things he’d regretted. Yet his next thought was *Didn’t she deserve it, even a little bit?*

Is this thought process familiar to you? It’s easy to flip from a sense of remorse to a justification of our thoughts and actions. It’s not always easy to say “I’m sorry . . .” when we have done wrong, yet this is so essential to rebuilding or strengthening any relationship.

The same is true of us and God. The Holy Spirit often prompts our minds to the sins that we commit. Our hearts are moved because of these promptings, but it can be easy to push away that still, small voice as we justify why we acted a certain way.

One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to “convict the world of sin” (*John 16:7, 8*).

John 16:7-8 (NKJV) “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. (8) And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”

What an incredible gift from God (*Luke 11:13*), for how we need such convictions to repair the distance that can creep into our walk with Him!

Luke 11:13 (NKJV) “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Read Hosea 6. What specifically do you notice here about how God describes Himself in His appeal for repentance?

1. A Call to Return Based on God’s Healing Character (vv. 1–3)

***Repentance grounded in confidence, not fear* Hosea 6:1–3**

Hosea 6:1-3 (NKJV) “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. (2) After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. (3) 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.”

Israel calls one another to return to the LORD, believing that:

- The God who disciplines. is the same God who restores.
- Divine wounds are redemptive, not destructive.
- Revival follows repentance (“**after two days... on the third day**”)

God is portrayed as:

- Certain (“**as the morning**”)

- Life-giving (“like the rain”)
- *True repentance is fueled by trust in God’s mercy.*

2. God Exposes Superficial Faithfulness (v. 4)

Inconsistency that grieves God - Hosea 6:4

Hosea 6:4 (NKJV) “O Ephraim, what shall I do to you? O Judah, what shall I do to you? For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, And like the early dew it goes away.”

God’s lament reveals the problem:

- Ephraim and Judah show temporary devotion
- Their faith is emotional, not enduring
- Like dew, it appears briefly and disappears quickly
- *God is not seeking momentary enthusiasm but lasting faithfulness.*

3. God Uses His Word to Confront and Correct (vv. 5–6)

Truth spoken to heal, not merely to judge - Hosea 6:5–6

Hosea 6:5-6 (NKJV) “Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And your judgments are like light that goes forth. (6) For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”

God explains His corrective action:

- Prophets were sent to cut through deception
- Judgment is compared to light, meant to reveal and restore

The core issue:

- Ritual without relationship
- Sacrifice without mercy
- Religion without knowing God
- *God desires hearts shaped by mercy, not hollow religious performance.*

4. Covenant Betrayal and Inevitable Accountability (vv. 7–11)

Persistent rebellion leads to harvest - Hosea 6:7–11

Hosea 6:7-11 (NKJV) “(7) “But like men they transgressed the covenant; There they dealt treacherously with Me. (8) Gilead is a city of evildoers And defiled with blood. (9) As bands of robbers lie in wait for a man, So the company of priests murder on the way to Shechem; Surely they commit lewdness. (10) I have seen a horrible thing in the house of Israel: There is the harlotry of Ephraim; Israel is defiled. (11) Also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed for you, When I return the captives of My people.”

God details Israel’s corruption:

- Covenant treachery
- Widespread violence and moral decay
- Even priests participate in wrongdoing

The chapter closes with a sobering truth:

- A harvest is appointed—choices will bear consequences

- Yet God still promises restoration when captivity ends
- *Grace delayed is not grace denied—but accountability is unavoidable.*

Consider the role of the Holy Spirit in the process of regrafting us back onto the Vine (**John 15:4**). “We often sorrow because our evil deeds bring unpleasant consequences to ourselves; but this is not repentance. Real sorrow for sin is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit.

John 15:4 (NKJV) “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

When did you last hear a rebuke or a call to repentance? How did you respond?

Spend some time right now in prayer, asking God to soften your heart and open your ears to His voice in His Word this week.