

THE NEED TO GO BACK

Jeremiah 6:16

Introduction: Often God's people would wander off from Him and find themselves in a backslidden relationship with Him. God would send a preacher to His people and tell them that they needed to return, to go back to their old ways of faithfulness and worshipping Him. Christians also have that same problem for many who are truly saved have wandered and strayed off from their former, old ways of faithfulness and following the Lord. God told Israel that if they would return to the Old Paths, He would give them rest for their souls. Perhaps YOU have wandered away from the Lord and need to go back.

I. GO BACK TO PRAYING AS YOU ONCE DID (*Luke 18:1*)

1. There are many people of God mentioned throughout the bible who are wonderful examples of praying as one ought. Elijah, Moses, Joshua and of course the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus commands His followers to pray and it is God's plan for His people to pray regularly.
- *Matthew 7:7-8*
3. When the Church was started, it was a praying Church.
 - The people began in prayer. *Acts 1:13-14*
 - They continued in prayer. *Acts 2:42*
 - They prayed during times of persecution. *Acts 4:15-18; 23-31*
 - They prayed for a member when he/she was in need. *Acts 12:3-5*

II. GO BACK TO LOVING AS YOU ONCE DID (*John 13:34-35*)

1. Jesus commands us to love each other. *John 13:34-35*
2. Loving one another is proof/evidence that we are truly saved. *1 John 4:20-21*
3. Loving one another also shows that one is being like Jesus. *John 15:12-17*
4. Love is proved by what one does/deeds. *1 John 3:16-19*

III. GO BACK TO CARING ABOUT OTHERS, INCLUDING THE LOST

1. Again, Jesus is the supreme example. *Matthew 9:35-38*
 - Jesus put his feelings for others into action -
 - Jesus cried out loud over the condition of His people for they were unbelieving and were bound for hell - *Luke 19:41; 13:34-35*
 - If Jesus cried over the lost, Christians should too.
2. Another example of caring for others is Paul. *Romans 9:1-3; 10:1-4*

IV. GO BACK TO LIVING FOR GOD (*Romans 12:1-2*)

1. It is no secret, God wants His people to be Holy! *1 Peter 1:14-16*
2. "Holy" means to be separated from the sinfulness of the flesh and the spirit. *2 Corinthians 5:17; 7:1*
- Christians wrestle daily with all kind of sin - that of the flesh and that of the spirit.
3. Living a holy life as God demands requires concentration, effort and a continuous communication with Him otherwise sin will pull the Christian away from living as God demands.

CONCLUSION:

1. From the very beginning of human life, mankind has had a problem living as God wants. Life goes well for a while, but gradually, unknowingly, one drifts away from living as he/she once did for the Lord.
2. There is but ONE lifestyle that is pleasing to God and it is the lifestyle set by His Son, Jesus.
3. Take a look at your own life, not somebody else's but your own, DO YOU NEED TO MAKE SOME CHANGES? Do you need to GO BACK to where you once lived as God wanted you to live?
4. You can't change somebody else's live nor are you accountable for anybody else, nor are you their judge. You are accountable to God for YOUR own life! So, how is it? Are you living as God wants or do you need to go back to where you once were living as God wanted?