

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

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Essential Truth: *True repentance is not outward performance but a heart turned back to God.*

Scripture: Joel 2:12-13

12 “Yet even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
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.

Observations:

- God calls us to fully return to him, with humility and true sorrow for what we’ve done
- God wants a pure heart, not just clean appearance
- God is loving and wants His people to return to Him
- True Repentance stirs God to withhold the judgement we deserve

Application:

Rend your hearts. Many times in the Old Testament we read of rulers, prophets, and people of God tearing (or rending) their clothes and mourning. Tearing of clothing was an outward symbol to show everyone around you that you were in deep sorrow over a situation. But God wants us to rend our hearts! We can’t physically tear our heart. But we can, in the deepest seat of our emotion, feel great sorrow for something we’ve done. This is necessary for repentance. A turning from our sin, asking forgiveness, and not desiring to go down that road again. To truly reject the ways of this world and to cling to what God has called us to. Each time we fall for the enemy’s tricks, God is calling us to repent. He called us to that when we turned to Him for the first time, and He’s calling out to us again.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for calling us unto you. We cannot do this life alone; we need You present in our lives every day. Help us to let go of the things we cling to that may be holding us back from fully turning back to you. Help us return to you, with a spirit of mourning, and renewal. Thank you for your unfailing love. Even though we fall short, you still accept us with open arms. Give us a deeper desire to follow you wholeheartedly, and Holy Spirit guide us to walk in your ways.

Amen

