

A.M. OUTLINE
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"DO RETURN UNTO THE LORD"

(1 Samuel 7:1-6)

(1 Samuel 7:3) "And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

1. "IF" - THE GOAL OF "RETURN"

1) "Return unto the Lord"

It's difficult when some do not see themselves "away" from God. I wonder what they would do differently if they did decide to "go away" from God.

The message of "return" is often given: (Deut. 30:2; 1 Kings 8:47-48; Isaiah 55:7; Luke 15:17-18; Rev. 2:4-5)

2) "With all your heart"

Yes, come back to the Lord, and put your "heart" into it. (Matt. 22:36-37; Prov. 4:23; Psalm 119:2)

2. "THEN" - THE REQUIREMENTS OF "RETURN"

1) "Put away the strange gods"

Jacob and Joshua issued the same challenge: (Gen. 35:2; Joshua 24:23)

What "strange god" took you away from God? - sleep, sports, television, hobby, home maintenance, weekend trips, selfish, you name it.

2) "Prepare your hearts"

(1 Chron. 22:19) "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God"
(Ezek. 18:31) "Cast away from you all your transgressions ... and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

3) "and serve him only"

There is but one God to be served: (Deut. 6:13, 10:20-21, 13:4)

3. "AND" - THE RESULT OF "RETURN"

"he will deliver you" - wouldn't you really rather have "deliverance?"
(Psalm 40:2) "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings"