

(1 Samuel 7:3) "And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, **If you do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, Then put away the strange gods and Asharoth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only: and He will deliver you ... "**

1. "IF" - HERE'S THE GOAL OF "RETURN"

1) "Return unto the Lord"

It's difficult when one does not see themselves "away" from the Lord.
How would you live differently if you were "away" from the Lord?

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

2) "With all your heart"

Yes! Come back to the Lord, and put your "heart" into it.
(Matthew 22:36-37; Proverbs 4:23; Psalm 119:2)

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

1) "Put away the strange gods"

The admonition has been said before: (Genesis 35:2 and Joshua 24:23)

What "strange god" is taking you away from God? sleep, sports, hobby; television, home maintenance, just being selfish? (you name it)

2) "Prepare your heart"

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

3) "And serve Him only" (Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20-21, 13:4)

3. "AND" - HERE'S THE RESULT OF "RETURN"

"He will deliver you" - that's the promise of God!

(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."