

RETURN TO ME

7 DAYS SET APART FOR THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

slow to anger and abounding in
and he returns from sending rain
and he knows? He may turn and rain
and leave behind a blessing
for the LORD your God.

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion,
declare a holy fast,
call a sacred assembly,
gather the people,
consecrate the elders,
bring together the children,
those nursing at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.
Let the priests, who minister before the
LORD, bring out their voices
and praise the LORD.
For thus says the LORD:
I have called my people
and they will come,
and I will make them
my people and they
will praise me,
saying, "Blessed be
the name of the LORD
forever and ever."

ABBA'S HOUSE



ABBA'S HOUSE FAMILY & FRIENDS

Jesus said on many occasions *"He or she who has an ear to hear, let him or her hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches."* The Spirit of the Lord speaks today!

Pastor Ronnie has heard and is obeying the Spirit's call: *"It is time to proclaim a Solemn Assembly so that My people can acknowledge what the Spirit is saying to Abba's House."* Now is the time for you to hear what the Spirit is saying both personally and corporately!

To adequately prepare for our upcoming Solemn Assembly, we must prepare our minds, hearts, and flesh. Engage in this seven day devotional for you and your family to understand what God intended this Sacred Gathering to do: to reconcile and restore His children to the presence of Jehovah where His blessings and favor are found for us individually, as families, and as a church.

RETURN TO ME - DAY 1

**Sunday, February 22:
The Alarm of Sin (Joel 1:1-12)**

**It's About ME! - Individual Sin and
Spiritual Awareness**

Joel begins with a land experiencing devastation and a people in even worse spiritual famine.

Fields ruined, joy dried up, worship disrupted. The locust plague is not merely agricultural loss; it is spiritual exposure. Individual sin often begins quietly, like larvae beneath the surface, but its consequences eventually consume fruit, joy, and vitality.

Personal reflection was first required. Verse 11 gives the appropriate response: be ashamed...wail.

What has been eaten away or devoured in your personal beliefs and daily faith walk with Jesus? What disciplines have withered? Are you overlooking delayed obedience, which is disobedience?

God's mercy begins with awakening and seeing our spiritual nakedness and faults.

Then responding in grief that we've hurt the heart of God. We cannot only be saddened because of our misfortune that comes as consequences of sin. We must be grieved and shamed to see we're sinners in need of a Savior's grace and need forgiveness.

We must personally confess, or say the same thing about our sin that God does. Only then...**ONLY THEN** is God beholden to forgive sin.

1 John 1:9 is clear: **IF we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** Spiritual numbness is broken when we recognize loss not merely as misfortune, but as an invitation to examine our hearts.

Prayer: Lord, awaken me to any hidden compromise. Let me be courageous to name my sin and confess it by calling it what You do. Then, please forgive me. Then, I thank you that You promise to restore what has been consumed through neglect or disobedience.

NOTES AND REFLECTION:

RETURN TO ME - DAY 2

**Monday, February 23:
When Families and Communities Drift
(Joel 1:13–20)**

**Is My Family Positioned for Repentance
then Reward? What about My Church?**

God instructed His prophet Joel to turn the focus to the leaders, elders, and priests to likewise mourn in shame for the corporate sins of families, the land of Israel as a nation, and a called-out body of people that God had created for Himself. The instructions were to move beyond mourning to take action in a set time to gather for the purpose of crying out to Yahweh in their personal, community, and generational sins that had resulted in devastation.

Sin is never merely private; it affects households, communities, and church families. When worship weakens in a home, integrity erodes in personal discipline and in family leadership, prayer is replaced by performance, then the spiritual drought follows.

Repentance requires courage – the courage to be humble. After individuals spend time in prayer, reflection, confession, and worship, families must gather and return to God in courageous humility. Leaders must lead in confession. Communities must fast and cry out.

Joel's call is for a public gathering because sin makes a public stain that is only removed when we dare to be courageous in humility and confess.

Prayer: Lord, open our eyes to see our own personal sins, the sins within our roles in our families, our church, our workplaces, and our community. Heal our hearts individually, then as families, then strengthen our households. Then, our church family will be united in courageous humility and serve forgiven and able to forgive. Restore Your presence as we confess our sins.

NOTES AND REFLECTION:

RETURN TO ME - DAY 3

Tuesday, February 24:

The Day of the Lord (Joel 2:1-11)

**National Reckoning for Corporate Sin:
Yes. Like Today.**

Joel's trumpet was sounded after the devouring locusts had consumed their labors, their sustenance, and their livelihoods. The barren land was exposed, stripped of any vegetation, and made bare before the fire of the elements which starved the animals and Hebrews.

God instructed Joel to gather all the Hebrews together after a fast. Their cries were to be from hearts that recognized their sin, confessed it in shame, and had the courage to turn away from their ways back to God.

But as the warning was sounded, the piercing of the trumpet declared loudly, with shrill resonance, that judgment was at hand. The vivid language of metaphor and similes used to in these verses are unmistakable to support the declaration of verse 12, *"For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it?"*

Individual sin, like a contagion, had afflicted families and homes. Familial and generational sin made sick the Tribes of Israel, just like our families and communities today. Culturally accepted and approved sin made toxic, not just communities, but the entire nation of Israel in God's eyes.

Sin was normalized. Today, sin is normalized.

Nations are accountable before God. Communities are accountable before God. Churches are accountable before God. Families are accountable before God. Individuals are accountable before God.

Repentance at the national level begins with individual obedience. Believers cannot control governments, but they can control their own faithfulness. God's people, those who want His salvation, blessings, and rewards, must also serve as spiritual guardians in times of cultural decline.

Prayer: Lord, forgive my sin. Forgive the sin of my family. Forgive the sin of my community. Forgive the sin of my church. Forgive the sin of this nation. We are created for Your purposes. Let us normalize Your ways, Your thoughts, and bring Your word alive in our own lives, our families, our community, our church, and our nation. Make me faithful in a drifting generation headed for devastation. Use Your people to stand in the gap for our nation.

NOTES AND REFLECTION:

RETURN TO ME - DAY 4

Wednesday, February 25:

Return With All Your Heart (Joel 2:12-17)

Serious Repentance. For Real.

Return to Me with all your heart. This is the turning point of Joel. Rend, or tear your heart and not your garments. These are not suggestions. God commanded.

God demands repentance that is wholehearted—fasting, weeping, mourning—not ritual, not religious piety, not performative Christianity. Return to Me in broken, humble confession and need. Turn in reality, not a religious empty act to be seen.

True repentance includes confession, denial of self, surrender of pride, and renewed worship. Individuals, families, leaders, and our family of faith must gather, not for appearance, but for genuine brokenness.

Obedience positions us for Presence. God's blessing follows surrender.

When must this happen? God says, "Now!"

Who must participate? You. Us. Not just "them."

Why must this happen? Sin separates. Sin severs our union with God. His holiness does not permit access to the unrepentant sinner. Sin separates us from God's blessing and reward.

What happens when we confess, die to self, and yield to God's way, His covenant? Obedience permits Presence where God's blessings are guaranteed.

Prayer: Lord, I return fully. I confess my known sins (Name them. Speak them). Give me a hunger for your word which will expose the sin and unworthiness in my life that must be torn away, cut away to give life and thriving to my mind, my path, my family, my life. Restore me into Your Presence for wholehearted worship and usefulness in Your Kingdom.

NOTES AND REFLECTION:

RETURN TO ME - DAY 5

Thursday, February 26:

The Promise of Restoration (Joel 2:18-27)

Blessing Restored – His Covenant Fulfilled

When repentance is sincere and unhindered with pride and religious pretension, but comes from a broken and humbled heart, the Lord pities His people and becomes zealous for His land. God restores what was lost - grain, wine, oil, joy, security.

"I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten."

Take in and consider the command in Joel 2:12-13 to *"Now, repent"* turn back or return, and render your heart. When we're dead to self and alive in Christ Jesus in forgiveness, we see *"Then the LORD will be zealous"* to refresh and restore His people.

God's terms are His covenant. His covenant comes with blessings. We cannot serve God on our terms. We cannot accept our own convenient definitions of sin and salvation. We cannot pervert God's grace for license to sin while expecting His blessings.

We must humbly confess, return to Him in His word to see how He defines sin, how salvation is given freely, with love, grace, and mercy, but God is not mocked.

Do we understand that when we engage in only the performance of our faith or practice empty religion, but are not personally committed, changed, and devoted, we mock God's amazing love? We place ourselves in His Role – God.

We do not define sin. Culture does not define sin. **God defines sin.**

We do not set the terms of access to God. We do not set the terms of access to His blessing. We do not set the terms of being recipients of His rewards.

We must confess, turn, then restoration comes. Restoration is not merely material; it is relational. *"You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel."*

God's presence is the true reward. Individual, generational, and corporate blessing flows from restored relationship.

Prayer: Lord, restore what has been lost. Let Your presence dwell among us again. We long to be in covenant fellowship, experiencing Your love, presence, and abundance. We praise You and seek to serve while we praise our Lord!

NOTES AND REFLECTION:

RETURN TO ME - DAY 6

Friday, February 27:

The Outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:28-32)

Generational Blessing...God Promised.

Repentance opens the door to the rewards from the hand of God Himself.

Repentance, restoration, revival, rewards.

The outpouring of the Spirit on sons and daughters, old and young are promised. God's presence is manifested beyond words, stories, and faith. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, comes in active power, prophetic clarity, and spiritual vitality.

Blessing extends across generations when hearts remain aligned. The Spirit's outpouring ensures continuity of faith and testimony in us individually, as families, as a community, as a church, and as a nation.

Abba's House was founded in 1951...75 years ago. The founding Scripture of our family of faith is **Acts 2:17-18** recording the Acts of the Apostles after Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection.

Peter stood among the mocking religious crowd when the Holy Spirit made His presence known at the Feast of Pentecost through Jesus' followers.

Peter, a salty-mouthed, short-tempered, blue-collar fisherman who often spoke and took action before he gave thought to his words and deeds, fearlessly stood to recite Joel 2:28-32. The prophet from hundreds of years earlier spoke this prophecy that was happening in real time in the upper room when the believers were gathered in one accord, or unified in Christ.

Do you want personal revival, a fresh, restored walk in Christ that is marked by the presence of the Holy Spirit? Repentance from a humbled, broken heart is the starting point.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, hear my cry! You have heard my confessions of sin. You will hear my confession of sin regularly to be made clean by the forgiveness of Christ's blood applied. Pour out Your Spirit on our sons and daughters. Let generations walk in Your presence. Let it begin with me. Come Holy Spirit, come!

NOTES AND REFLECTION:

RETURN TO ME - DAY 7

**Saturday, February 28:
The Lord Dwells in Zion (Joel 3)**

God's Blessed Vindication and Abiding Presence

Joel concludes with judgment against nations that oppressed God's people. Judgment comes for nations just as judgment comes for us as individuals.

"The Lord dwells in Zion." God defends, restores, and establishes justice. Blessing culminates in abiding presence.

Individual repentance leads to family healing. Family healing strengthens the church. A faithful church influences communities. A repentant people experience enduring presence.

The choice is ours. Will I repent and say the same thing about sin as God? Do I normalize sin and bow down to the convenience of culture and self? Our individual decisions impact our family. Our community is impacted by my choice as an individual and our choice as a family.

Our church reflects my individual decision. Our nation looks exactly like its people. Will America once again be One Nation Under God?

It begins with me. It begins with you.

Then, we're positioned for the ultimate reward - not prosperity, but proximity. The Lord dwells with His people. Does He dwell with you in unbroken fellowship after repentance and among your worship?

Prayer: Lord, dwell among us. Let our repentance secure generational faithfulness and unbroken fellowship with You. Find me emptied of self, sin, and society's definition of approval. Find me emptied for Your filling and prepared for Your presence. Dwell! Abide with me, my family, my church, my community, and our nation. We exalt You, Holy God!

NOTES AND REFLECTION:

