

Hosea 14

1. Israel is told “the ways of the Lord are right” in 14:9. Hosea starts chapter 14 with a word from the Lord to Israel.

What two things are they commanded to do in 14:2?

“_____ with you and _____ to the Lord.” (v2)

2. Up to this time the people’s words have been empty and deceitful. **What do you see in the first three verses that will make their words sincere and true?**

Personal Consideration: Are you bringing words to the Lord? What type of words do you bring to the Lord?

Think for a few moments about the request “Take away all iniquity” (v2). What an incredible miracle that God can and is willing to “take away all iniquity”! V4 says, “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely.”

“freely”: a spontaneous or abundant gift. This offering is always given willingly, bountifully, liberally, or as a prince would offer. It refers not to the nature of the offering or the external mode in which it is offered, but to the motive and spirit of the offerer. (Strongs)

3. **In light of the book of Hosea, your personal experience and any examples from scripture that come to mind, how does this promise – “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely” – speak to you in your relationship with God or your relationship with others?**

In 14:5-7 we read a vivid description of what fellowship with Jesus is supposed to be like.

_____ “will be like the dew”

_____ “will blossom like the lily”

_____ “will take root”

_____ “shoots will sprout”

_____ “beauty will be like the olive tree”

_____ “fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon”

Effect on others: “Those who live in his shadow”

_____ “blossom like the vine”

4. **In consideration of this descriptive language what is our relationship with God meant to be like?**