

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

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Repentance God Accepts Hosea 14:1-8

Often in our guilt and shame we fear that God has abandoned us; that we've gone too far this time. We are quick to rush to the conclusion in our hearts if not quite in our heads that we are beyond the hope and help of the gospel. But God doesn't quit on us, and we find that rather than being reluctant to see us return. . .

God gladly accepts genuine repentance.

I. God describes genuine repentance (vv 1-3).

A. God requires that we see our situation (v 1).

Israel had stumbled in their sin – judgment had come and was probably only going to intensify for the struggling nation. We will never get right with God until we realize how off we really are and what our sin has cost us.

B. God requires that we repent of our sin (v 2).

Earlier Israel had brought sacrifices trying to buy God off (Hosea 5:6), but now Hosea challenges them to come with words, words of sorrow and remorse. Words asking

God to forgive them, words promising to turn to him and trusting his character.

C. God requires that we change our trust (v 3).

1. We must stop trusting the world.
2. We must stop trusting our idols.

II. God responds to genuine repentance (vv 4-7).

A. God heals our wayward hearts.

Israel is to return to God, and in doing so, God will cure them of their tendency to turn to other things.

B. God loves us without strings.

When people turn to God, his anger turns from them and he is free to love them lavishly and show that love.

C. God blesses our broken lives.

God will cause those who surrender to him and his will to return to his blessings, reversing the discipline that he has brought upon them (cf 13:15).

III. God appeals to genuine repentance (v 8).

A. God is the only one who truly cares for you.

God is the one who hears our prayers and looks after us, not fake idols that can't talk or move.

B. God is the only one truly blesses you.

Any success we have in life ultimately comes from God, whether spiritual or temporal.