

TURN TOWARD ME

**Even now, declares the LORD, return to Me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.**

Joel 2:12

**Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will proclaim Your praise;
for You do not delight in sacrifices:
if I offered You a burnt offering, it would not please You.
The true sacrifice is a broken spirit:
a contrite and humble heart, O God, You will not refuse.**

PSALM 50 (51)

**O God, You will not spurn a humbled, contrite heart.
Take pity on me, Lord, in Your abundance of mercy wipe out my
guilt.
Wash me ever more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know how guilty I am:, my sin is always before me.
Against You, You alone have I sinned.
You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be made clean;
You will wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
You will make me hear the sound of joy and gladness;
Turn Your face away from my sins
and wipe out all my transgressions;
create a pure heart in me, God, put a steadfast spirit into me.
Do not send me away from Your presence,
or withdraw Your Holy Spirit from me;
give me again the joy of Your salvation,
and be ready to strengthen me with Your Spirit.**

GOD'S WORD: Luke 15:20-24

**But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was
filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms
around him and kissed him. The son said to him, Father, I have
sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to
be called your son. But the father said to his servants, Quick!
Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and
sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a**

feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate. We had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.

REFLECTION

Have you ever felt unworthy of the Lord's love? Have you ever sinned in such a way that has torn you to pieces, or wounded you in such a way that God couldn't restore you? The Lord is capable of all restoration, if only you will return to Him. No matter how broken you may feel, how wounded your heart or soul may be, God will bring you healing. There is no limit to His love. There is no sin He cannot forgive. And not only can He forgive, He can redeem. He can make beautiful things out of the darkest moments of our lives. Don't be afraid to run to Him. Don't be ashamed to go back to Him. He will always be waiting for you with open arms. His forgiveness has no expiration and His love has no end. Return home to Him, He's waiting for you.

PRAYER

**Behold, O kind and most sweet Jesus,
I cast myself on my knees in Your sight,
and with the most fervent desire of my soul,
I pray and beseech You
that You would impress upon my heart
lively sentiments of faith, hope, and charity,
with true repentance for my sins,
and a firm desire of amendment,
while with deep affection and grief of soul
I ponder within myself and mentally
contemplate
Your five most precious wounds;
having before my eyes that which David
spoke in prophecy:
"They pierced My hands and My feet;
they have numbered all My bones." Amen.**

