

Love's Hope: Restoration

Hosea 14 (English Standard Version)

- 1 Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God,
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.
- 2 Take with you words and return to the LORD;
say to him,
"Take away all iniquity;
accept what is good,
and we will pay with bulls
the vows of our lips.
- 3 Assyria shall not save us;
we will not ride on horses;
and we will say no more, 'Our God,'
to the work of our hands.
In you the orphan finds mercy."

- 4 I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.
- 5 I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily;
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;
6 his shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive,
and his fragrance like Lebanon.
- 7 They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;
they shall flourish like the grain;
they shall blossom like the vine;
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

- 8 O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
It is I who answer and look after you.
I am like an evergreen cypress;
from me comes your fruit.

- 9 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let him know them;
for the ways of the LORD are right,
and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them.

- **Intro:** The how and why of love?

- **The Lord your God:**
 - Longs for restoration (v.1)

 - Calls for genuine repentance (vv.2-4)

- **The wonder of God's Love (vv.4-7)**
 - Heals the results of unbelief

 - Generously provides

 - Flourishes the faithful

- **No greater love (v.8)**
 - Love that hurts

 - Love that wins

- **Wisdom born of love (v.9)**
 - Returns

 - Rejoices

Further questions, musings and encouragements

- 1) How has Hosea helped me understand the goodness and love of God
- 2) What has this passage shown in regarding the goal and desire of genuine love?
- 3) How would I paraphrase the confession in v.3? What sorts of other 'love' am I tempted to be trusting in?
- 4) Why might I really struggle to believe in the generous provision of God in vv.4-7? What has happened in my life that causes me to question this?
- 5) Spend some time this week reading through ch.14 praising God and declaring His good plans and purposes for you in Jesus.

