

Week of September 6, 2009  
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## Monday

Joel 2:13 And rend your heart and not your garments."  
Now return to the LORD your God,

Apart from a correct heart, the outward acts of worship and repentance are meaningless – meaningless to you and to God. Indeed, we are capable of deceiving ourselves, convincing ourselves that all is right simply because we are walking through the motions of worship. God desires sincerity of worship, which includes genuine repentance, submission, and obedience. The outward show of church attendance, public prayer, even offerings may impress others, but God is impressed by an honest desire to know Him, to serve Him, and to follow Him.

## Tuesday

Joel 2:25 "Then I will make up to you for the years  
That the swarming locust has eaten, ...

There is no more pleasant promise than this one from your Lord. He will "make up to you the years." God not only relents from judgment and offers you a new beginning, but often He brings to your life full restoration even of the wasted years. When we turn to Him, He works all things together – all things – for our good. When we return to Him, He may restore our broken relationships and give back to us the wonder of family or church. Such returning must be honest and sincere, not of a short season as if to try the Lord. But when we return to Him with all our heart and make obedience the mark of our lives, Jesus may restore the years. Glory!

## Wednesday

Joel 2:13 ...For He is gracious and compassionate,  
Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil.

How gracious is our God! By His very nature He is gracious and compassionate. He is slow to anger, patient with our failures, sins, and stubbornness. He is full of love for you and always desires to see you restored to relationship and fullness of life. His patience may be tried and He may judge your actions or attitudes. Still, His judgment of His children is issued from His love and He is always ready to remove His punishment and wrap you in His arms. Even in His anger and judgment, He seeks your best. Always turn quickly to Him and walk in His love.

## Thursday

Joel 2:28 "It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

This promise fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2) is a promise to you of purpose and usefulness. It is a promise open to all, young or old, male or female. It is a promise of a personal relationship with God. A relationship designed to give you power for service, witness, and living. No longer is the Spirit only imparted to special prophets, priests, or kings – now you have been given the Spirit of the living God. Jesus promises to live in you and through you (John 15), to guide you and teach you, never to abandon you. This is the promise of the Spirit in your life.

## Friday

Joel 2:32 "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered;"

This deliverance is both temporal and eternal, spiritual and practical. You learned of God's ability to redeem and forgive at the time of your salvation. Too few have learned the wonder of God's deliverance (temporal salvation) available for the obedient servant of the Savior. Yes, God's promises are about eternity and heaven, but they are also about today and tomorrow. Call upon the Lord! Repent where needed. Live obediently in every aspect of your life. God will deliver you and grant you wisdom. He will protect you with His angels. He will rescue you from evil. Call!