

Return

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"Return to me and I will return to you." Zechariah 1:3 and Malachi 3:7 both record this parallel command and promise from God. As children of God marked by the stain of the sin, we are ever prone to wander and ever in need of course correction. Our misaligned hearts constantly pull to the right or left and so we are instructed by God to be ever-returning to Him. In Jeremiah 4:1 God says to his un-repentant children: if you will return to me, then return to me. It is a bold "just do it" command from a God who knows that only in Him will we find the shelter we need.

*We will return to you, O God, Draw near to us
We will call out to You, O God, You hear our hearts
We find our rest in You, Your arms have sheltered us*

The command to be a people ever-returning to God is repeated in Exodus 30, Isaiah 44 and Jeremiah 24. In Hosea 14:2 (HCSB) we find this instruction: "Take words of repentance with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him: 'Forgive all our sin and accept what is good, so that we may repay You with praise from our lips.'" And so we respond to God's unfailing forgiveness with our thanks and praise:

*We love You Jesus. You've always been
Our Strength, our song, and our Salvation
We love You Jesus. Because You satisfy
our thirst we will return to You*

Our devotion is founded on God's past faithfulness - "You've always been..." - and made possible by his current provision - "you satisfy..." In Redemption City Church, we long to be a people known for five core loves, to be identified by our love for Jesus, the church, the world, service and multiplication (to understand these better visit redemptioncity.com.) Our love for Jesus is the shaping force behind every other pursuit of the church. Announcing "We love You Jesus" is at the core of our identity as a family of faith.

*Lord, You come like the dawn, like the Spring rain
Ever sure, ever good You're forever the same*

The bridge of RETURN is drawn from the beautiful prayer of Hosea 6:1-3 (HCSB). "Come, let us return to the Lord. For He has torn us, and He will heal us; He has wounded us, and He will bind up our wounds. He will revive us after two days, and on the third day He will raise us up so we can live in His presence. Let us strive to know the Lord. His appearance is as sure as the dawn. He will come to us like the rain, like the spring showers that water the land." We can and will return to the LORD because He is ever sure and ever good.

- written by Redemption City Church worship pastor, James Tealy