

RETURN TO THE LORD
Hosea 14 (ESV)

*I am like an evergreen cypress;
from me comes your fruit. (vv. 4—6, 8b)*

Introduction

1. Hosea's call to repentance (vv.1 – 3)

*Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God,
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.
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.
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.” (vv. 1—3)*

2. God's promise of restoration (vv. 4 – 8)

*I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.
I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily;
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;
his shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive,
and his fragrance like Lebanon....*

3. Exhortation to respond wisely (v. 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. (v. 9)*

Conclusion

Question for Reflection

- Am I walking in God's way — living in repentance and bearing fruit for God?

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