



**JOEL – HEARTS OUT OF ALIGNMENT**  
**GOD RESTORES | JOEL 2**  
**Pastor Mark Owens**

When we repent, God restores.

The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it? <sup>12</sup> "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. <sup>14</sup> Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? <sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. <sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" - Joel 2:11-17

Repentance is an expression from the heart.

The purpose of repentance is a renewed relationship.

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. - Joel 2:12-13

*"Yet even now,"*

- I know your rebellion, but I love you.
- Judgment was pronounced, but I am here to show you grace.
- It isn't too late; return to me.

Fasting  
Weeping  
Mourning

Fasting in repentance

And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." <sup>4</sup> So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only. <sup>5</sup> Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you." <sup>6</sup> So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. - 1 Samuel 7:3-6



Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. <sup>2</sup> And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. - Nehemiah 9:1-2

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. - Acts 13:1-3

## Weeping in repentance

I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. - Psalm 6:6

But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." <sup>62</sup> And he went out and wept bitterly. - Luke 22:60-62

And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, <sup>38</sup> and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. - Luke 7:37-38

**Forgiveness doesn't come from weeping; forgiveness comes from seeking.**

## Mourning in repentance

- Mourning means we feel the weight of our sin.
- Mourning remains until your heart is healed.

But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." - Luke 15:17-21

## Brokenness means:

- I'm seeking forgiveness without excuses.
- I have rebelled, and only the blood of Jesus can make me whole again.

**Outward expressions may impress, but inward change leads to repentance.**

and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster."

- Joel 2:13

To "*rend your hearts*" means:

- Expose the truth.
- Stop managing appearances and start dealing with the root of the issue.
- Be honest with yourself.

An external change may draw man's applause, but an internal change is what gets God's attention.

"...Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." - Joel 2:13

Our God loves us even when we don't feel lovable.

Our God is gracious and merciful, even during our darkest moments.

Our God is slow to anger, and He knows our hurts, our sorrow, and our struggles.

Stop pretending and start pursuing real repentance.

When we repent, God restores.