

One significant sign of returning to YHWH is that we bring words with us



*1O Israel, return to YHWH your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity; 2Take words with you, and return to YHWH. Hosea 14:1-2*

## **Bring Words With You**

The prophet Hosea describes how Israel was to return to YHWH. They were to take their words with them....specifically they were to talk to Him. I believe this is still the primary way that we are to return and connect with the God of the universe. Without this helpful parameter of bringing our words to Him, abiding with Yeshua, returning to Him, or whatever we want to call it can be somewhat nebulous....I don't really know if it's working. But with words, I know whether I'm regularly talking with Him or not. The fruit of our return is ultimately a life of obedience that lines up with the word of God, but, to get more fully to that place when we are messed up in different ways, we talk to Him and ask Him for help.

Here are some helps I've discovered to grow in the discipline of bringing words with me.

1. Be honest: I was initially surprised to find out years ago that if we complain about something/someone (even about Him!) to God it's called prayer. In most other contexts we sin when we bring these negative statements to other people. But with Him, He already knows what we're thinking and feeling any way, so why not get the poison out to Him and be honest about what's going on as a start. The psalms are also a great place to latch onto the honest laments of saints that have gone before.

2. Schedule the time: as we put in our schedule times where we intentionally bring our words to YHWH then we will grow in our relationship with Him. As we honor these set-apart times, we will also more freely talk to Him on the run as we are going about our regular activities.

3. Use the Scriptures/prayer lists: when we don't know what to say, we can go to a prayer list or pray-read through the Bible to help give us vocabulary to bring our words to Him. In the Bible, when we come across a command to obey, we can tell Him, "I purpose in my heart to obey this command. Please help me." And when we come across a promise about His nature or character, we can simply say, "Thank You God for this attribute; show me more." As we regularly offer up 10-20 second prayers to Yeshua as a regular discipline, over time things will shift in small but significantly incremental ways in our hearts. These small shifts are enough to set us on course to have large, positive changes. Here's a link to my favorite prayer list that I've prayed near daily for myself and my family for many

years. [https://mcusercontent.com/bb047e8705192b2817b6fc897/files/3921798e-ceb2-67f9-6c2d-fff576e68601/Bickle Prayer List FELLOWSHIP Prayer Guide.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/bb047e8705192b2817b6fc897/files/3921798e-ceb2-67f9-6c2d-fff576e68601/Bickle_Prayer_List_FELLOWSHIP_Prayer_Guide.pdf)

4. Just do it: Don't compare yourself to others who seem to be doing it better than you. This comparison will usually keep us from praying and there will always be people who are doing it "better than us." We are to individually bring our weak and simple words to Him. As we persistently do, things will change in

us.

In closing Deuteronomy 30:11-14 explains that we don't need to have a supernatural experience to gain the breakthrough. We don't need to go across the country to some spiritually-charged place. The answer is right there in our own mouth as we bring our words to Him.