

Title: "Turn to Me with all your heart"

Text: Joel 2

## (I) THE CONCEPT OF "THE DAY OF THE LORD"

### 1. Physical Description of "The Day of the LORD"

*"A day of darkness and gloominess..." Joel 2:2a*

*"...A day of clouds and thick darkness..." Joel 2:2b*

### 2. Prominent idea behind "The Day of the LORD"

*"Alas for the day!  
For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
It shall come as destruction from the Almighty." Joel 1:15*

- a) It is a day of destruction!
- b) It is a day to be dreaded!
- c) It is "at hand" (Joel 1:15; 2:1)

## (II) PRAYING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

### 1. Divine Admonition from the Lord Himself concerning our prayers

*"Now, therefore, says the LORD,  
'Turn to Me with all your heart,  
With fasting, with weeping and with mourning.'" Joel 2:12*

- a) Turning to the Lord with a whole heart
- b) Seeking the Lord in appropriate expressions
  - i) Fasting
  - ii) Weeping
  - iii) Mourning

### 2. Direct human Advice from the prophet Joel

*"So rend your heart, and not your garments;  
Return to the LORD your God,  
For He is gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;  
And He relents from doing harm." Joel 2:13*

a) Response from a Genuine heartfelt

Rending of the heart (**Joel 2:13**)

b) Rejection of mere external religious expression

Rending of the garments (**Joel 2:13**)

c) Returning to the Lord

Acknowledgment of having departed from the Lord

d) Reliance on knowledge of God (Reminiscent of **Exodus 34:6-7**)

i) God is gracious (**Joel 2:13**)

ii) He is merciful (**Joel 2:13**)

iii) He is slow to anger (**Joel 2:13**)

iv) He is of great kindness (**Joel 2:13**)

v) He relents from doing harm (**Joel 2:13**)

### **(III) PRAYING IN HUMBLE HOPE**

*"Who knows if He will turn and relent,  
And leave a blessing behind Him..." Joel 2:14*

#### **1. Presumption must be avoided at all costs**

a) God's forgiveness is not to be taken for granted

b) God's favourable response is not to be assumed

#### **2. Praying with a deep sense of hope**

a) Praying in humble hope that God might relent

b) Praying in humble hope that God might still leave a blessing behind