



Sabbath School Lesson 9 | Nov 20-Nov 26

Sabbath School Lesson Notes Outline

"Turn Their Hearts"

A Which is God's role in our conversion?

❖ God's desire.

- Deuteronomy 5:29 begins with the idiomatic Hebrew phrase Mi-Yitten which is literally translated as "Who will give?" It's similar to "If only..." (see Exodus 16:3). It expresses the idea of a wish, of a desire, of someone wanting something badly.
- God desires to see us coming back to Him, fearing Him, and obeying Him. Just because that's the best thing for us.
- He could force us to do so, but He doesn't because He respects our free will. We are free to choose how to respond to the Holy Spirit's call to repentance, and therefore to fulfill God's desire or not.

❖ God's grace.

- God is able to perfectly predict what will happen to a person (like Peter in Matthew 26:34), to a nation (like Israel in Deuteronomy 4:25-28), or even to global empires through human history (Daniel 2, 7).
- However, His knowledge does not overrule any individual, national, or worldwide decisions. God just knows which decisions we're going to make. He still insists on urging us to make the right choice, to repent, and to come to Him.
- God's grace is enough to forgive everyone who repents and wants to turn to Him.

B Which is our role?

❖ Repenting, returning, obeying.

- The steps we must follow are listed in Deuteronomy 30:1-3:
 - (1) REPENTING: Feeling deep sorrow for having sinned.
 - (2) RETURNING: Stop fleeing from God, and returning to Him.
 - (3) OBEYING: Abandoning sin and acting according to God's will.
- None of these steps is enough to forgive our sins or restore our relationship with God. That's God's work alone. These steps show our willingness to let God forgive us, transform our lives, and to make us His children.

❖ Coming to God with all your heart.

- God knew that Israel would disobey Him and that they would live in exile. Therefore, He wanted to give them hope (Deuteronomy 29:24-28).

- They would receive His blessings again and come back to the promised land if they desired it with all their heart. That is, they just needed true repentance, and the ardent desire of returning to God and obeying Him.
- When our souls long for God, He changes our hearts by “circumcising” them (Deuteronomy 30:6). He makes us new creatures who are eager to serve Him (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

C The call to repentance in the NT.

- ❖ Repentance and Gospel are closely related (Mark 1:15). After all, repentance would be useless if Jesus hadn't died for our sins to forgive them?
- ❖ We are sinners, so we must repent from our sins, change our sinful habits, and choose to get away from them. God will give us a new heart (Psalm 51:10).