

Grace for Getting Back in the Race

Lesson Four • Hosea 14:4-9

Runners Receiving, God Restoring

Grace for Getting Back in the Race

We are bent on backsliding from God, but when we return to God, He not only forgives us, He also RESTORES us with His healing grace; and this healing grace comes in and through Jesus Christ.

*"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from Me."
Hosea 14:4 NKJV*

Runners Receiving, God Restoring

1. We Receive SANCTIFYING Grace from God!

"I will heal their backsliding" Hosea 14:4a NKJV

The Healing Grace of Sanctification:

Sanctification is the process by which God faithfully works upon our lives, from within and without, to CONFORM us more and more into the image of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*"Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings."
"Indeed we do come to You, for You are the LORD our God." Jeremiah 3:22 NKJV*

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. 1Peter 2:24-25 ESV

2. We Receive ADOPTING Grace from God!

"I will love them freely" Hosea 14:4b NKJV

The Healing Grace of Adoption:

In adoption, God takes us into His FAMILY to love us freely, with nothing in His heart but tender compassions.

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Romans 8:15-16 ESV

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!
1John 3:1 NIV*

3. We Receive JUSTIFYING Grace from God!

"for My anger has turned away from Me" Hosea 14:4c NKJV

The Healing Grace of Justification:

Justification is the act of God's sovereign grace whereby He IMPUTES to the sinner the perfect righteousness of Christ, pardons him of all sin, clears him of all guilt, frees him of all punishment, and gives him a right to eternal life on the sole basis of Christ's perfect obedience and full satisfaction rendered at the Cross.

Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. Galatians 2:16 ESV

*He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.
1John 2:2-3 ESV*

Our Final Response to God's Grace

Will you choose the path of restoration or the pit of destruction?

*Who is wise? Let him discern these things! Who is discerning? Let him understand them!
For the ways of the LORD are right; the godly walk in them, but in them the rebellious stumble.
Hosea 14:9 NET*

Questions for Reflection & Application:

- Are you a total stranger to God's grace? Admit your need for His grace in Jesus Christ and ask Him to save you through faith.
- Are you backsliding so far from God that you cannot believe He ever began the good work of saving grace within you? Pray, "Lord, if this is Your work within me, confirm it; if not, show me the truth, and begin Your saving work within me."
- Are you a backslider who cannot deny God's saving grace in your life, yet you know that you are presently not in the right place before God? Repent of your sin and return to the Lord; receive His healing grace and get back in the race.
- Are you a child of God who can honestly say you are not currently in a condition of backsliding, but rather you are growing in Christ? Continue to run your race with God's grace.