



When is it Time to Give Up?

July 25, 2021 Message Notes

HOSEA 14:9

We all need to stop from time to time, take stock of where we are, where we're going, and what's ultimately ahead. If we want to live well, we must understand that God's paths get us where we want to go. Along the way we will want to quit, but we must remember that none of us are beyond the reach of God's forgiving grace and faithfulness. Nothing is too hard for God.



NOTES

We all need to stop from time to time, take stock of where we are, where we're going, and what's ultimately ahead.

“If you want to live well, make sure you understand **all of this**. If you know what is good for you, you will learn this inside and out. God’s paths get you where you want to go. Right-living people walk them easily; wrong-living people are always tripping and stumbling.”

HOSEA 14:9, Message Bible

“Let those who are wise understand **these things**. Let those with discernment listen carefully. The paths of the Lord are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them. But in those paths sinners stumble and fall.”

HOSEA 14:9, NLT Bible

“Who is wise? Let them realize **these things**. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.”

HOSEA 14:9, NIV Bible

What are “these things”?

1. Relating with human beings is complicated.

- People can be fickle, distracted, deceived and flat out sinful and destructive.
- Hurt people hurt people.

2. Success doesn't mean satisfaction.

- It doesn't guarantee spiritual completeness or joy.
- Hosea tells us going with God can show the way.

3. God cares about us and wants to be in a fulfilling relationship with us.

- God has feelings, recognizes and is torn by the betrayal of his people, has multiple shades of anger, feels and longs for restoration but is torn.
- God's holiness as true also means faithful, which means it is God's essential nature to keep His promises, to bring the pieces together.
- People are given opportunities again and again to respond to his love and truth, but ultimately, justice will be done.

4. Use your freedom to create more freedom.

- Sin doesn't make us free. Sin makes us slaves.
- We do this by getting right with God, walking close to Him and doing the will of God. That's the path to blessing.



- Honor your promises to God – in your marriage, in your family.

5. God is willing to heal and restore when we turn to Him.

- It doesn't matter what we've done or left undone.
- God used Hosea, his wife and kids as a mirror to help others see themselves and return to God with all their hearts.
- We receive God's forgiveness and offer it to others.

“Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.” – *When We Walk With The Lord* by Daniel Towner / John Sammis

Forgiveness is an amazing thing. It has the power to free, to calm, to encourage, and to give peace.

We must unleash the power of forgiveness in our homes, in our marriages, with our children, with our parents, with our in-laws, and with all who will listen.

Nobody makes it through this life unwounded or unscarred – especially when love is involved, when family is involved, when needy, vulnerable, sinful human beings are involved.

So, when is it time to give up? Every day and never.

Every day we give our most precious relationships to God, release them to his hands. And never do we stop loving. Never do we give up caring. We hold on by letting go.

Sometimes we hurt, feel weak, or feel like we are failing. That's the time we need to fight hardest for what matters most – our God, our marriages, our families, our future. Never quit.

I'm in, God. I don't know what the future holds, but when it comes to your love, Lord, I'm in.

None of us are beyond the reach of God's forgiving grace and faithfulness. Nothing is too hard for God.

