

CL Talks I Hope's Door
Pastor Al Brice I Episode 66

Hosea 2:14-17 NKJV

Israel has turned away from God, she has gone after other lovers, like an adulteress or adulterer. She has allowed the prevailing sin of the culture of the other nations, that don't serve God, to influence her and she has embraced a lifestyle that is completely opposite of the life that God has called her into. She is still acting religious but she has drifted away from her affectionate relationship with God and her love for God has grown cold.

Hebrews 2:1; Matthew 24:12-13 NKJV

The word cold, in verse 12, means to chill. Chill means, a cooling down of a original temperature. Israel, when delivered out of the bondage and slavery of Egypt, was on fire for God but the culture allured them away from God and they gradually chilled out. The culture and the characteristics of our society, apart from God's ways, have been designed to steer and take you away from God. The culture has the demonic influence that causes you to love the world and all it has to offer and turn you away from loving God and being a godly influence in the culture. **1 John 2:15-17 NKJV.**

In Matthew 24:12, it states, the love of many will grow cold, what does this mean? What does it mean to love God? **John 14:15, 21, 23-24, 31; 2 John 1:6 NKJV.**

Who is the designer of this world system and its influence? **Luke 4:5-8; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJV.** So, what are the effects of being chilled? You, gradually, become discouraged, standoffish, uncompanionable, unresponsive, withdrawn, stop serving and being involved, gradually begin to miss coming to church, start making excuses, disappear, unhappy, indifferent, distant, and sometimes hostile).

There are times, in our walk with God, that we allow other things, people, this culture to distract us and gradually we find our hearts going in another direction. We see our relationship with God and Church beginning to cool off, our hunger for God's Word changes and we desire the things and relationships of the this world more and more. **2 Timothy 4:10 NKJV.**

The same happened to Israel and it led her into sin, disobedience, and rebellion toward God and God had been so good to her!! **James 4:17 NKJV** (many times, other opinions or someone else's suggestions triumphs over what God has said)

If we allow ourselves to fall into that position then things begin to fall apart, we feel empty, angry, we blame others, we begin to wonder where is God in all this?

Well, He has never left us, we have walked away from Him and our actions, lifestyle, and behavior have changed, it is our choice!!!

We feel that God has abandoned us, forgot us, and will probably never help us again, much less forgive us. We come under a vicious attack of condemnation from the devil and our own mind because we have drifted away from Him, living in disobedience, and just doing our own thing. We begin to murmur, complain, blame, and accuse others of our demise. We will not take responsibility for our mistakes so we point the finger at others and get mad at God!!!

Pursuing what is not His will, living in disobedience, and doing your thing, will propel you into frustration, emptiness, loneliness (people who said that they loved you, now, has abandoned you), weariness, weakness, anger, discouragement, never having enough to meet my needs, barely scrapping by, despair, unhappiness, and most of the time, failure.

But I have good news!!! **James 2:13** (MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGEMENT);
Lamentations 3:17-24 NKJV

Hosea 2:14-17 NKJV.

A surprise, He is alluring her by His mercy, compassion, and unconditional love.

Vs 14...Wilderness means pasture, not a dry or barren place. It also means to commune, to get a word, a song, a promise and provision. This place is not a location or position of punishment but a place free from other distractions, a place of to receive mercy, grace, strength, and restoration.

Vs 14....Speak comfort to her heart means that He will speak friendly words and give wisdom; to transport (to carry from one place to another, to carry away with the emotion of joy).

Vs 15.....Vineyards, because of her disobedience and sin, Israel had become desolate and barren but now God was going turn what was barren into fruit and prosperity.

Vs 15.....Valley of Achor (the place of trouble) into a door of Hope!!! Achor is the valley that represented a major defeat for Israel, a man named Achan disobeyed God, took silver and gold that God said, don't take it, leave it alone. It cost him his own life and the life of his family, they buried them and put a heap of stones over them. God is saying, I'm going take your defeat and turn into a victory!!!! After this incident, they went into the Promise Land!!! God is saying, "I'll take your valley of trouble and defeat, where you have stumble and fallen and I'm going to give you a Door of Hope!! I'm going to give you a door of opportunity so you get out of your valley.

You need to leave the heap of stones that are covering your mistakes and failures!!!

You need to turn from the rubble that marks the failures of your past and look to the Door of Hope that will lead you into restoration, healing, deliverance, and prosperity!!!

It's a Door of new vision, a door of mercy, grace, forgiveness, and provision!!!

Vs 15.....She will sing there, God is going to turn your mourning into joy, He is going to give you beauty for ashes, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness!!!

Vs 16.....My Husband instead of My Master (a slave to your circumstances). Names of Baal...names that have condemned you like failure, your no good, stupid, worthless, bad, never amount to anything, always goofing up, nothing will ever work out for me, can't do anything right, everything goes wrong, insignificant, always my fault!!!! Not today, a Door of Hope is in front of you!!! Isaiah 61:7 NKJV

The Door of Hope is Jesus!!! **John 10:9-10 NKJV**; Jesus is God's Word **John 1:1-3 NKJV**

It's time to arise!!!! **Isaiah 60:1 Amplified**... ARISE [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you—rise to a new life]! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!!!!

Isaiah 61:1-3 NKJV