



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"LORD, Turn Us, Search Us, Save Us"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Psalms 80, 50, 20

There's a cry that echoes through Scripture and through our own hearts: *"Lord, restore us. Make Your face shine, and we will be saved."* We see it in Psalm 80 three times like a drumbeat. It's not just one person whispering; it's God's people together pleading. That's what we all long for — God to turn us back to Him, to shine His presence upon us, and to rescue us.

But here's the journey of these psalms: First, Psalm 80 shows us the cry for restoration. Then, Psalm 50 reveals what happens when God actually shines His light — He searches us, exposes us, and calls out our empty rituals. And finally, Psalm 20 leads us to the confidence of salvation: *"Now I know that ADONAI saves His anointed."* That's our journey today: **Lord, Turn Us. Search Us. Save Us.**

1. LORD, TURN US (Ps 80)

Psalm 80 begins with Israel crying out, *"Give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock... restore us, make Your face shine, and we will be saved."* The psalmist remembers Joseph — betrayed, enslaved, falsely accused — yet always led by the Shepherd. Even when Joseph's journey didn't look like the dream, God was leading him toward it.

The same Shepherd who led Joseph through slavery led Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness. And now, as the people face exile and tears instead of bread, they cry: *"Hashivenu — Turn us back. Shine Your face. Save us."*

We often want God to shine just to bless us, but His shining face is also His presence that reveals. In His light, nothing is hidden. It's like a doctor shining a light to find the cancer. At first, you want a clean bill of health — but if something deadly is inside you, don't you want it exposed? When God shines His face on us, it's not to shame us, but to heal us. His turning restores us, His shining reveals us, and His saving rescues us.

2. LORD, SEARCH US (Psalm 50)

When God shines forth, it isn't always comfortable. Psalm 50 says, *"Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes and does not keep silent."* But He doesn't start with the nations — He starts with His own people.

He calls them together and says, "I don't rebuke you because you forgot the sacrifices. Those are always before Me. But here's the problem: you're saying the right words while casting My words behind you. You hate My discipline. You flatter sin. You slander your brother. *And you thought I was just like you.*" That's the danger — trying to make God into our image instead of being transformed into His. We sing, we pray, we go through the motions, but God's searching light exposes the truth: He doesn't want

empty rituals; He wants thanksgiving, obedience, authenticity. He wants us to say, *“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me, and lead me in Your everlasting way.”*

3. LORD, SAVE US (Psalm 20)

Psalm 20 turns the corner from pleading to proclaiming: *“Now I know that ADONAI saves His anointed.”* That “now I know” is the shift — from hope to confidence. The psalmist contrasts trust in chariots and horses with remembering the Name of ADONAI. The world leans on power, politics, money, armies — but those collapse. God’s people rise and surround one another with encouragement, warning, and protection. *“They collapse and fall, but we rise up and support each other.”*

This is the beauty of God’s salvation — He doesn’t just save isolated individuals; He surrounds a people. Together, we rise. Together, we walk in His Name. Together, we live in the confidence: He saves.

CONCLUSION

These psalms walk us through a journey every one of us is still on:

- **Psalm 80 — Lord, turn us back to You. Shine Your face and restore us.**
- **Psalm 50 — Lord, search us. Expose our empty rituals. Correct us in love.**
- **Psalm 20 — Lord, save us. We rise together in Your Name.**

Maybe today you feel stuck in Psalm 80 — just crying out, not sure if God hears. Or maybe you’re in Psalm 50 — God’s shining light has revealed things in you that need to be confronted. Or maybe you’re ready for Psalm 20 — standing with confidence, *“Now I know He saves.”* Wherever you are, the invitation is the same: *Restore us, Lord. Shine Your face on us. Save us.* Call on Him today with that simple prayer: “Here’s my heart, Lord. Speak what is true. Turn me, search me, and save me.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Psalm 80 repeats *“Restore us, make Your face shine, and we will be saved”* three times?
2. What does it mean for God’s “face” (His presence) to shine on us? How does that bring both comfort and exposure?
3. In what ways do believers today risk “going through the motions” like in Psalm 50?
4. What are some modern “chariots and horses” people trust in instead of God?
5. How can we, as God’s people, “rise up and support each other” when the world collapses?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Shepherd of Israel, hear us today. *Hashivenu — turn us back to You. Shine the light of Your face on us, and we will be saved.* Lord, search us. Expose what is hidden. Remove empty rituals and form us into Your likeness. And Lord, save us. Teach us not to trust in chariots or horses, but in Your Name alone. Together we rise, together we stand, together we proclaim: *Now I know that ADONAI saves His anointed.* In Yeshua’s Name, Amen.