

 1 Samuel 7:2-17 

Return to the LORD in...

 1) Repentance (v2-4) He is Holy
(turning from idols, turning to God)

 2) Dependence (v5-9) He is Rescuer
(desperate prayer, confession, trusting God's sacrifice)

 3) Remembrance (v10-17) He is Helper
(looking back to his goodness)

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Dig Deeper Questions for 1 Samuel 7:2b-17 “Returning to the Lord”...

- 1) **Spot the difference! Compare and contrast the first battle of Aphek/Ebenezer (4:1-11) with the second battle of Mizpah/Ebenezer (7:2-11). What lessons can you draw about God?**
- 2) **Which “foreign gods” (v3) are you particularly in danger of worshipping, or being drawn away from Christ towards?**
- 3) **Recap some of the ingredients of “turning back to the Lord” modelled here (see also 1 Thess 1:9-10 for initial repentance and Rev 2:4,5 or James 4:4-10 for ongoing repentance). What would they look like in your life? Which of these aspects are your work/God’s work?**
- 4) **“Sometimes God puts us on our back so that we look upwards!” How does this passage model desperate prayer? Have you had experiences of this (and answers)?**
- 5) **As the Annual Church Meeting approaches, what “Ebenezer” acts of the Lord’s help (v12) would you like to give thanks for, personally or churchwise?**

For further study... Lamentations 2:9 may help with pouring out of water theme. Commentators differ on whether it was a symbolic act of consecration, or an act of self denial.