



## Part 1: It All Starts With Stopping

### What must I stop doing in my relationship with God?

#### 1. Stop trying to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ by saying what I think God \_\_\_\_\_ to hear!

*“Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.”*  
Hosea 6:1-2

#### 2. Stop trying to get what \_\_\_\_\_ from God by doing just \_\_\_\_\_ for God!

*“Let us acknowledge the LORD ; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”* Hosea 6:3

### Question:

#### As I start 2005, how must I stop \_\_\_\_\_ with God?

*“What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth; my judgments flashed like lightning upon you. For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. Like Adam, they have broken the covenant - they were unfaithful to me there.”* Hosea 6:4-7

## Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today's topic!

### This week's memory verse:

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,”* 1 Peter 1:2-4

### Monday

Read Hosea 6:1-7. This is such a fascinating passage. Write down two things you learned about this passage from the sermon last weekend:

- 1.
- 2.

How will you apply what you learned to your life this week?

*Thank God today for His love for you. Thank Him for the difficulties He has used to bring you closer to Himself. Talk to God about the year ahead. Commit the year to Him and ask Him to daily draw you closer to Himself.*

### Tuesday

Read Psalm 62:7-8, Hosea 6:1-2 & 1 Peter 5:7. What do these verses tell you about talking to God?

Recall a time when you were living one way, telling God what you thought He wanted to hear and expected that would protect you from the consequences of your actions. What did you learn from that situation? What motivated you to tell God what you thought He'd want to hear?

Why do you play “let's make a deal” with God?

How do you think talking with God as you think you should instead of from your heart hinders your relationship with Him?

In what way are you currently trying to hide part of your heart from God? What have you learned this week that can help you pursue more honesty with God?

*Talk honestly with God (He knows your heart anyway!) about your life and your heart—allow some time for this. Talk to Him about your pain, your struggles and your hopes. Listen to Him and pray that you'll hear His voice above all others.*

## **Wednesday**

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Psalm 73:23-26 & Hosea 6:3.

What do these verses tell you about the total and intense nature of your relationship with God?

When are you most tempted to do just enough to feel like you've secured God's blessings instead of throwing your whole life and heart into your relationship with God?

Think honestly about your relationship with God. Would you say you're closer to being a "blessing addict" or in a heartfelt relationship with God? Why?

*Thank God today for His total honesty with you and His total love for you. Pray that you will find rest and reassurance in His love and that it will motivate you to be honest with God.*

## **Thursday**

Read Hosea 6:4-7, Romans 8:38-39 & Ephesians 2:1-5. Write down three descriptions of God's love from these verses:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What impacts you most about the purity of God's love for you?

How does understanding God's love for you impact your heart? How can it change you?

*Thank God today for His amazing love for you. Pray that you will grow in an understanding of God's love for you and that it will impact your heart and actions in the weeks ahead. Pray that your love for God will increasingly mirror His love for you.*

## **Friday**

Read 1 Peter 1:2-4. How did you answer the question at the end of the sermon - how do you need to stop playing games with God in 2005? What changes will you make in your heart and mind to move in that direction?

*Thank God today for His kindness and mercy towards you. Thank Him for growing you and walking with you each step of the way. Pray that your relationship with Him will be more and more honest and that you will make a difference in the world around you.*

## **Saturday**

*Please pray for the weekend services: Pray that they will effectively reach our community with the Good News of God's transforming love and grace. Pray that our church will be a refuge for those who come here.*