

## THE DISCIPLINE OF WITHDRAWAL

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A wise person learns from those who have gone before them. We can learn a lot about life and about God and about how God works, if we will listen and pay attention to those who have more experience than we do.

Someone once said, "Those who don't learn from history are destined to repeat it."

Hos 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

When people cease to believe truth and turn their back on the word of God, there is a price that will be paid!

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee,

When people reject the knowledge of God, they are in danger of God's turning them over to themselves and man can't save himself.

Hos 4:17 Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.

Ephraim was a tribe of Israel. There were the descendants of Joseph. They knew how God felt about idols. They knew that what they were doing was wrong, but they were doing it anyway. So God withdrew Himself from them!

If people will not hear the word of God and listen to the words of the preacher and do what the Bible tells them to do, God will withdraw Himself and allow people to go their own way and do their own thing and end up lost.

It's a dangerous thing to ignore the word of God! If you don't respond to the voice of God whenever He speaks to you, He might just stop speaking. If you don't come to Him whenever He calls to you, whenever you do decide to come, you might not be able to find Him.

Hos 5:6 They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them.

I never want God to withdraw from me. I want to always be sensitive to His voice and respond to whatever it is that He might have me to do.