

Hosea 4 • How Did THIS Happen?

- (v.1-3) God presents a legal case proving their lack of knowledge of Him based on their _____, the Laws of the “second” tablet.
- (v.4-6) Spirituality deteriorates because of the lack of accountability on all levels to _____. This results in spiritually forsaking their _____ for a substitute “_____”.
 - James 1:22-25. Not a “forgetful _____” but an effectual _____.
 - This is the path not only to being disqualified from one’s spiritual _____, but earthly _____.
- (v.7-10) Eventually the disease is evidenced by the forsaking of God’s _____ for one’s own _____. (Philippians 3:17-19)
- (v.11-14) _____ unfaithfulness eventually becomes evident by one’s _____ unfaithfulness, biblically defined as a “lack of understanding”.
- (v.15-19) As with all injurious behavioral problems, it seems to take a _____ before it can be turned around and unfaithfulness properly addressed.

Let’s Connect the Dots

Consider the following Scriptural sequence culled from this lesson’s reading and discuss how it provides a basis for understanding how a person, church, or movement can start out right but ends up in the completely wrong place spiritually.

- (v.1) “...there is no faithfulness, or kindness, or knowledge of God in the land.” **Symptom:** Treatment of _____
- (v.4) “Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof...” **Symptom:** Lack of _____
- (v.6) “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” **Symptom:** Replaced the Father with a substitute “_____”
- (v.6) “...you have forgotten the law of your God...” **Symptom:** Becoming a “_____ hearer”
- (v.10) “...they have stopped giving heed to the LORD.” **Symptom:** _____ from God’s Word
- (v.12) “...a spirit of harlotry has led them astray, and they have played the harlot, departing from their God.” **Symptom:** Visible _____ unfaithfulness to match _____ unfaithfulness
- (v.16) “...Like a stubborn heifer, can the LORD now pasture them like a lamb in a large field?” **Symptom:** Must have a _____ experience to see the truth and want to change.
- (v.19) “...they will be ashamed because of their sacrifices.” **Symptom:** Must engage in true and sincere _____.

Do you or anyone you know fit at least part of this profile? Do you see the value of gentle but firm admonishment – of speaking up to make them accountable – and not being a party to allowing behavior to escalate? If we don’t

_____, where will we end up, both ourselves and the others for whom we remain silent?

Conclusion: Part of the process of spiritual healing and reconciliation **MUST** involve a return to God’s Word, a powerful tool that heals unfaithfulness by encouraging

_____.