

06/19/12 - The Path Back

RG AUDIO 0619121 Samuel 7:2-9

Israel was back at Mizpah in hope of national revival. How do you rebuild hope, confidence, and strength? Samuel proposed a seven-step program of national restoration (vv. 5-6):

- 1. Forsake the Idols:** To return to God required removing all they had set in his place and to serve him only.
- 2. Assemble:** As long as Israel remained scattered, they would be a weak people.
- 3. Intercede:** God's people must "stand in the gap" and pray for the fallen, near and far.
- 4. Demonstrate:** They drew water and poured it out before the Lord, symbolically offering their very lives to God.
- 5. Fast:** The ancient spiritual discipline combines self-denial and a refocusing of life priorities upon seeking God.
- 6. Confess:** Confession opens the door to God's blessing.
- 7. Offer:** The offering of a lamb sealed their rededication, "and the Lord answered" (v. 9b).