

## HISTORY'S GREATEST COMEBACK

John Edwards

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated president-elect Donald J. Trump on “history’s greatest comeback!”

We are making spiritual application of “history’s greatest comeback”.

The Bible teaches that a child of God can depart from God. The Hebrew writer warned, *“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God”* (Heb. 3:12). This can happen to any brother or sister. James penned, *“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins”* (Jas. 5:19-20).

The appeal is being made for those who have left the Lord to come back that it may be said, *“For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls”* (1 Pet. 2:25).

The greatest comeback is when the child of God who has gone astray comes back to the Lord. Take note of some who came back:

### THE PRODIGAL SON

**CAME BACK.** Take time to read Luke 15:11-32, where we are

impressed with a great comeback. The younger of a certain man’s two sons asked for his portion of the inheritance. He *“...took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living”* (v. 13). *“And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want”* (v. 14). It was so bad that he was feeding the hogs *“And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him”* (vv. 15-16). He came to himself and he came back. The Bible reports, *“And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son”* (vv. 20-21). There was great rejoicing when the son came back. The father said to his servants, *“Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry”* (vv. 22-24). If you had been the prodigal son, would you have come back?

**SIMON CAME BACK.** In the eighth chapter of Acts, we read where Simon the sorcerer

*“believed”* and *“was baptized”* (v. 13). *“And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power; that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost”* (vv. 18-19). Simon was in danger of perishing (v. 20); his heart was not right with God (v. 21); he was *“in the gall of bitterness, and bond of iniquity”* (v. 23). He was urged to *“Repent...and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee”* (v. 22). Simon answered, *“Pray ye to the Lord for me...”* (v. 24). Would you have made that request?

### THE PUT AWAY

#### FORNICATOR CAME BACK.

Among the church at Corinth was one guilty of the sin of fornication (1 Cor. 5:1). The church was instructed, *“...put away from among yourselves that wicked person”* (v. 13). A reading of 2 Corinthians 2 shows the action was effective as the put away fornicator came back (vv. 1-11).

The Lord wants you to come back. He *“...is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Pet. 3:9). We want you to come back! *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 Jn. 1:9). Will you come back?

## WHAT SHALL I DO WITH JESUS?

Nicolas Edwards

Pilate asked this question in Mathew 27:22. The wrong answer was given as *“They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.”* What will you do with Jesus? Do not crucify Him afresh (Heb. 6:6)!

**HEAR HIM.** *“While he yet spake, behold a cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him”* (Mt. 17:5)

**BELIEVE HIM.** *“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins”* (Jn. 8:24).

**CONFESS HIM.**  
*“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven”* (Mt. 10:32-33). Just like the eunuch, *“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”* (Acts

8:37).

**OBEY HIM.** *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”* (Lk. 6:46). He is *“the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him”* (Heb. 5:9).

**FOLLOW HIM.** *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me”* (Jn. 10:27). *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps”* (1 Pet. 2:21). *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 2:5). Humble yourself, be selfless, serve Christ and others, be obedient!

**ABIDE IN HIM.** Once we’ve been baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27), we must abide in Him (Jn. 15).

**LOOK UNTO HIM.**  
*“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who*

*for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Heb. 12:1-2)

**REMEMBER HIM.** *“This do in remembrance of me”* (1 Cor. 11:24-25). We do this on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).

**PREACH HIM.** Like Phillip in the city of Samaria (Acts 8:5, 12).

**LOVE HIM.** *“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him”* (Jn. 14:21)

**LOOK FOR HIM.** *“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many: and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation”* (Heb. 9:28). *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Phil. 3:20).

Be careful what you do with Jesus! Your soul depends on it. Come to Him (Jn. 5:40)!

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