# Lesson 29 Hosea 14:2-10 Sincere Conversion and New Life

(Faith) Hosea promises that those who return to the Lord in sincere repentance   
will be forgiven and receive the blessings of God.   
How does the Catholic Christian avail himself of this promise and what are its effects?

Hosea 14:2-3; 5-8

2 Return, Israel, to the LORD, your God; you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

3 Take with you words, and return to the LORD;  
 Say to him, “Forgive all iniquity, and take what is good.  
 Let us offer the fruit of our lips.

5 I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely; for my anger is turned away from them.

6 I will be like the dew for Israel: he will blossom like the lily;  
 He will strike root like the Lebanon cedar,  
7 and his shoots will go forth.   
 His splendor will be like the olive tree and his fragrance like Lebanon cedar.

8 Again they will live in his shade; they will raise grain,  
 They will blossom like the vine, and his renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.

(Hope) Where do you find the hope for the fruit promised in Hosea 14:9?   
What is that fruit? See Genesis 3:22

Hosea 14:9

Ephraim! [Israel] What more have I to do with idols? I have humbled him, but I will take note of him.

I am like a verdant cypress tree. From me fruit will be found for you!

Genesis 3:22

Then the LORD God said: "See! The man has become like one of us, knowing what is good and what is bad! Therefore, he must not be allowed to put out his hand to take fruit from the tree of life also, and thus eat of it and live forever."

(Love) As the footnote to the NABRE comments this verse is a “challenge to the reader.” In other words, it is a rhetorical question that nearly always has the same answer; nonetheless, we should always pause for a moment and answer the question.  
Who is the answer?

Hosea 14:10

10 Who is wise enough to understand these things? Who is intelligent enough to know them?

Straight are the paths of the LORD, the just walk in them, but sinners stumble in them.

NABRE footnote to Hosea 14:10

A challenge to the reader in the style of the wisdom literature

Our principal objective in St Timothy’s Catholic Bible Study is to help bring each participant into a closer personal relationship with Jesus.   
Would you like to share any experience you have had that may accomplished this goal?