

## MISSIONARIES RETURNING EARLY MAY HAVE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS

This list of questions may help priesthood leaders and parents in understanding what may be going through the thoughts and feelings of the missionary that returned early and is struggling with the return. Answers to a few of these questions may already be in place if a Church disciplinary council was held in conjunction with the early return.

CAUTION: Sharing this entire list with the returned missionary would probably not be wise. This could even be detrimental as it may open up avenues of thinking that are not necessary for their healing. (Elder Boyd K. Packer's talk in reference to beans up the nose in his General Conference talk of April 1978, "Solving Emotional Problems in the Lord's Own Way", is the concept being followed here.) All of these will not apply to each missionary's unique journey. Many of these will have no application for individual early returned missionaries.

1. Did I just fail in the most important work/calling of my life?
2. What is my standing in the Church at this point? Am I worthy to hold a calling?
3. Did I not have enough faith to be healed or to solve the issues that brought the early return?
4. How can I face others, knowing that they are aware that I "failed"?
5. How will this hinder another member of the Church in considering to date me or marry me?
6. How will I explain this to my children and will this be a detriment to my being a good parent?
7. Are the blessings in my Patriarchal Blessing still available to me? If my blessing had a lot hinging on, or seemingly hinging on, my serving a full-time mission do I need to obtain another Patriarchal Blessing?
8. What can I do about letting down my mission companions, my mission leaders, my investigators, my stake president, my bishop, the ward and my siblings (especially the younger ones that look up to me).
9. Are there people that were left back in the mission that only I could have reached and brought into the gospel?
10. Does my coming home early make me unworthy to partake of the sacrament?
11. Do I have to, and is there any way to, make restitution for returning early?
12. For the young Elder: May I give priesthood blessings?

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