

SPIRITUAL MAINTENANCE

Confession and Repentance, Psalm 51

What Keeps Us from Repenting?

- Psalm 51 is David's psalm of confession, repentance and restoration
- David didn't write Psalm 51 immediately, it took him awhile
- It wasn't until David was confronted of his sin by the prophet Nathan in 2 Samuel 12, that David pens Psalm 51
- It was nearly a year before David confessed and repented
- What keeps believers from confessing and repenting of sin?
- *Blessings* – when we're blessed the feeling is there's no need to repent
 - That was the mindset of the church at Laodicea **Revelation 3:17 (KJV) 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**
- *There were no consequences* – We think because there was response from God for our sins, everything is okay
 - The absence of consequences really is God giving us an opportunity to repent
- *My sins are too bad to be forgiven* – The enemy has blinded our minds into thinking that God will never forgive
 - God's forgiven is abundant **Psalm 103:12 (NKJV) 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**
- *God is so merciful* – God's mercy is so great that there's no need to repent
 - We think because God is so merciful that He will *look the other way* when we sin
- *Repentance is so easy* – Just say "God, I'm sorry" confession and you're done
 - Sorrow for sin related to repentance, but it's not repentance
 - Confession is acknowledging sin, and is related to repentance, but's not repentance
 - Feelings of guilt – is not repentance
 - David was carrying the guilt of his sin **Psalm 32:3-4 [3] When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. [4] For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer.**
- David was literally suffering in silence with unconfessed sin
- Confession is admitting your sin
- Repentance is turning away from sin, it's change of direction

Have Mercy On Me

Psalm 51:1-2 (KJV) Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

- Psalm 51 is a psalm of repentance, brokenness before God; it's a *true confession*
- David realizes what he did was wrong, and he appeals to the mercy of God
- He is asking God for grace and mercy, because that is all he can ask for
- David asks for mercy according to God's lovingkindness
- It speaks of God's unfailing love for us
- According to the *multitude* of your *tender mercies*
- God's mercy is abundant
- David humbles himself and asks God for mercy

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- David asks God to *blot out* his *transgressions*
- David wanted God to blot out his sins from *his conscience* and from God's *record book*
- David asks God to wash him thoroughly of his sins
- David had lived with this sin for over a year and his heart had become hardened

I Acknowledge My Sins

³ For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

- Confession begins when you acknowledge your sins
- David knows he is guilty and doesn't blame anyone else for his sin
- He accepts full responsibility for everything
- The damage we've done can't be blamed on others, we must take responsibility
- We as Christians often want to find someone else to blame for our sins
- Confession involves being fully open and honest with God
- David said *my sin* is ever before *me*
- What bothered David was his sin.
- David was constantly reminded of *his sin*, he couldn't escape it
- He tried to ignore it, deny it, rationalize it, but it wouldn't go away
- Against you *only* have I sinned
- David felt the ultimate sin was against God
- David felt this way because he done evil in the sight of the Lord ***Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good***
- David realizes in his confession that God commands are just and good even when David broke those commandments

The Depth of My Sin

⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶ Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

- David's confession gives him a clear view of God
- First and foremost, God is holy, and God hates sin
- David realizes that from birth he had a sinful nature
- David acknowledged the depth of his sins, but his desire was for God's *truth* to go deeper than his sins
- David wanted God to work in the hidden, unseen parts of his life

Restore Me

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

- Confession does not end with only naming our sins
- Confession also requests God's help

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- David realizes that the sins he committed has left him spiritually stained and only a holy God can cleanse him
- David asks God to:
 - *Purge him* with hyssop and wash him; give me a deep cleaning
 - David didn't need a physical cleansing, David wanted God to give him *spiritual and moral* cleansing
 - When David asks God to purge him with hyssop, he's asking God to "de-sin" him, totally remove the sin from his life
 - *Wash me and I'll be whiter than snow*
 - *Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice:*
 - Spiritually break me; I no longer want to wander from you
 - God wants our conviction of sin to be the *prelude* to joy
 - The restoration of joy is God's goal
 - *Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities:*

Restore My Heart

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

- David wanted God to do more than clean up the heart he had, he wanted a new heart ***Ezekiel 36:26 (KJV) 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.***
- This is what true repentance is, *it's change of mind*
- He asked God to *create in him a new heart*, something, only God can do
- *Renew the right spirit with in me*, give me a *steadfast, firm* spirit
- *Don't cast me away from Your Presence*
- *Don't take Your Holy Spirit away from me*

Restore My Joy

¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. ¹³ Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

- *Restore the joy of my salvation*, give me my joy back
- True repentance is a *change of conduct*
 - David is serious about getting right with God
 - It must be our desire to come to God to be cleansed of sin, forgiven, and restored
- *Uphold me with your free spirit*
 - David is looking to his future, asking God to continue to hold by the power of the Holy Spirit
- *I'll teach transgressors your way*
- True repentance is a *change of purpose*
- I have a testimony of my sins and God's mercy and grace
- If we truly confess and repent of our sins, God will use you again
- When we go to God, we may start with "remorse and regret", but we leave, *repented, restored, and renewed*