
Q: What does it mean that God desires a “broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart?”

Q: The response of God’s forgiveness is a joyful restored heart, one that testifies to others the good news of Jesus!

5. Psalm 51:18-19 Change our nation

Q: Why does David’s prayer of repentance include the whole nation of Israel?

Q: Overall, how does David’s prayer of repentance in Ps 51 illustrate our need for God, even at every step of the restoration process (acknowledging sin, confessing/repenting/turning from it, having a desire to have a right heart that follows the Lord, etc.)?

God’s forgiveness doesn’t necessarily erase the consequences of our sin (David’s child died, his other sons had major issues, and the nation of Israel was never the same).

Q: How have you experienced God’s mercy (not getting what we deserve) and grace (giving us His favor when we absolutely don’t deserve it)?

Q: When tempted to do wrong, how can we (2 Cor. 10:5) “take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ”?

Q: David was a “man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22) yet he fell to temptation. How can we best guard our hearts (1 Cor. 10:12-13) “lest we fall?”

Prayer:

Lord thank you for your love, your mercy and grace. Forgive me of my sins, change my thoughts, attitudes, words and actions, and make my life a living sacrifice for your glory. Thank you for the powerful truth of your word. Change and revive my heart so I can best share the hope of the gospel with others. All for your glory and honor! In Christ’s name, Amen!

Harvest Reaching Beyond

Evangelical Free Church

*A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal study and/or growth groups)*

Week of January 22, 2017

Psalm 51

Week Overview:

“Forgive me Lord!”

Our culture hates the notion of personal repentance. It’s something we want to see when a killer is sentenced in a court for some horrendous crime. But when it comes to our personal lives, we like to tell ourselves that our motives were good, our intentions were noble, and that the wrong things we did were not that significant in the end. We tend to look for excuses and to minimize the severity of our sin. When was the last time you even heard anyone on television use the word



“repent” in a serious and thoughtful way? How often do you see someone own their sin fully and admit that they deserve all the negative consequences of their behavior?

Followers of Christ face the same temptation. We can assume that the love Jesus has for us will erase all the effects of our choice without requiring us to do anything ourselves. Our sins are covered by the sacrifice of Christ, so why worry about them at all?

David demonstrated that he could ignore his sin just like we can. He conveniently overlooked his adultery with Bathsheba and even his indirect murder of her husband Uriah. As a king who wielded unchecked power, perhaps he came to believe that he was above the law of men and the law of God.

Each of us know the power of self-deception when it comes to sin. We know how tempting it is to rationalize what we do. We know how easy it is to procrastinate facing those things that are ungodly in our attitudes, habits, and behaviors.

God graciously confronted David so that he might be restored. He offers that same gift to you and me. David reflects on this process in Psalm 51 as we look at the way back to God from our failures.

Psalm 51

¹ TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN NATHAN THE PROPHET WENT TO HIM, AFTER HE HAD GONE IN TO BATHSHEBA. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

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

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

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

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Q: Describe a time when you did something wrong, tried to hide it but got caught? What emotions (or lack thereof) did you experience?

Q: How has covering up sin backfired in your life (or the lives of others)?

1. King David's Mess (read 2 Samuel 11-12).

Q: (Read the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20:1-21) What ones specifically did David break?

Q: Uriah was one of David's "Mighty Men" listed in 2 Sam 23:39. Murder and adultery were both punishable by death according to the Law. In light of this, how does David appeal to the Lord in Psalm 51?

2. Plea for God's mercy & forgiveness (Psalm 51:1-6)

Q: Forgiveness is possible based on God's nature and His promises of love (v.1). Based on this, how can we be quicker to forgive others?

Q: How does our sin affect us, others, but ultimately a holy God? (v.3-4)

Q: How does this passage show that sin is not God's fault, for we all have inherited a sinful nature from conception (v.5)?

3. Make me clean God! (Psalm 51:7-12)

Q: What does David ask God to do? List the various things mentioned.

Q: (v.11) David feared the Lord might take away His Spirit's anointing, empowering presence in his life. (He witnessed this happen to King Saul before him). What does David rest his hope upon for restoration with the Lord?

Q: (vv.10-11) Ever feel stagnant in your faith (just going through the motions)? Your sin make you feel distant from God? We are natural born sinners, thus we need God's continual cleansing in our day to day lives. Pray for the Lord to reveal any unconfessed sin and be willing to deal with the consequences of them, but also to experience His restored joy!

4. Help me God to tell others Psalm 51:13-17

Q: What types of sacrifices does the Lord require? (vv.16-17)

Q: How might we "fake it", go through the (outward) motions of serving God, yet inwardly our attitudes are not right with God (selfish, evil).