Wash Me

#1 **Read verse 1-2**. David does not open this psalm by cataloging his sin. He opens it by cataloging God's character. What does it reveal about the nature of true repentance that David would first acknowledged who God *is* before confessing what he has *done*?

And notice the architecture of verses 1–2: three Hebrew words for sin — *pesha* (transgression), *awon* (iniquity), and *chata* (sin) — are met and matched by three words of divine response — "blot out," "wash," and "cleanse." What does this deliberate symmetry tell us about the sufficiency of God's grace to address every dimension of human failure?

#2 **Read verse 3-4**. David's confession in verse 4 is among the most theologically honest and startling statements in all of Scripture. The horizontal wreckage of his sin was catastrophic — adultery, murder, and corruption, and yet David's focus is on the vertical offense to God. Why must genuine repentance begin at the vertical offense to God before the horizontal fractures can be authentically and lastingly addressed?

#3 **Read verses 5-6.** What does David's honest diagnosis about the origin of his sin nature tell us about why behavioral reform, moral effort, and self-discipline alone can never be sufficient to address the human condition?

Take time to discuss the bookend approach David uses in verse 5 & 6 concerning the two natures, ours and God's.

#4 **Read verses 7-10**. David is not asking for repair, renovation, or improvement. He is asking for new creation. What does it mean that God's answer to human sinfulness is not moral improvement but recreation?

#5 **Read verse 11**. David's fear in verse 11 — "Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me", Discuss the difference of what David meant by this plea under the Old Covenant and the permanent promise we enjoy in this new covenant.

When you fail, does your instinct lean toward the fear that God has withdrawn from you — or toward the confidence that He remains present and invites you back? Explain you answer.

#6 **Read verse 12**. Discuss what David meant by asking that the "joy of Your salvation" be restored and not just salvation. What does it mean to be genuinely saved and joyless at the same time?

#7 **Read verses 13-15.** What is the connection between the depth of our personal encounter with grace and the courage, authenticity, and power of our witness to others?

#8 **Read verse 16-17**. What does this tell us about what God is actually looking for from His people? How does it expose the subtle, almost unconscious way we can use religious activity as a substitute for the genuine internal brokenness He requires?