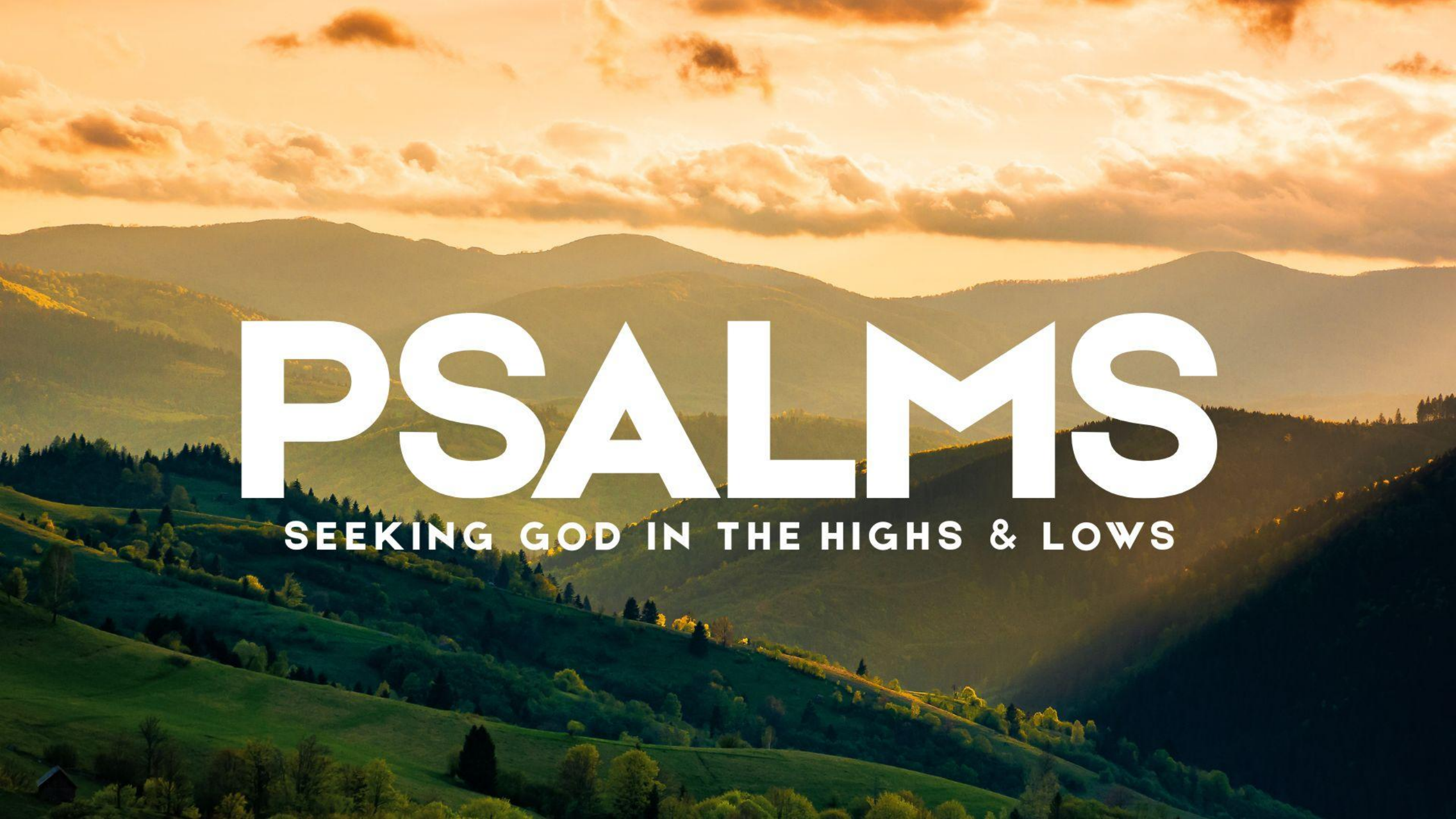




PSALMS

SEEKING GOD IN THE HIGHS & LOWS



Psalm 51

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Psalm 51

- Psalm 51 is categorized as a "penitential psalm:"¹
 - Psalms that are expressive of sorrow for sin.
 - Biblical penitence is a posture of the heart that takes responsibility for our wrongs, offenses, and sins against God and sincerely seeks reconciliation with Him.



- There are seven penitential psalms (Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143).

David

An afflicted person but
possibly David

Psalm of
Ascent



- Psalm 51 and Psalm 32 are linked as part of David's journey of confession and restoration:
 - Both arise from David's sin with Bathsheba.
 - Most believe Psalm 32 was written later as a "maskil (contemplation)."

¹<https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/tbs/meaning/psa-51-v1-3.cfm?a=529001>

Psalm 51

- There is a striking similarity between the paths taken by **King Saul** and **King David** as recorded in 1 & 2 Samuel.



*Both were **chosen** and **anointed** by God to be king of Israel.*

*Both began with **humility** and **promise** and were empowered by God for their calling.*

*Both experienced **great success** and became powerful kings.*

*Both **sinned against God** and faced confrontation over their disobedience.*

*Both experienced the **consequences of their sin**, including turmoil within their families and kingdoms.*

But their paths ultimately diverged:

Saul increasingly resisted God, while David – despite serious failures – responded with repentance and sought restoration with God.



David's Sin (2 Samuel 11)

- It all started with ...

What David was supposed to be doing

¹In the spring of the year, *the time when kings go out to battle*, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. *But David remained at Jerusalem.*

What David did.

Couch = bed

²It happened, *late one afternoon*, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, *that he saw from the roof a woman bathing*; and the woman was very beautiful ... – 2 Sam 11:1-2



David's idleness led to a chain of serious sins

David's Sin (2 Samuel 11)

5-6 weeks?

- V3 "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, **the wife of Uriah** the Hittite?"
- V4 David **lay** with her ... Bathsheba had been **purifying herself** from her uncleanness.
- V5 **"I am pregnant."**

There is absolutely no indication that Bathsheba in anyway seduced David ...

1 week?

- V6 David sent to Joab – **"Send me Uriah** the Hittite."

3 days

- V8 David "Go down to your house and wash your feet" and there followed a **present from the king.**
- V9 But **Uriah slept at the door of the king's house** with all the servants.
- V11 Uriah said to David "Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to **lie with my wife?** As you live, and as your soul lives, **I will not do this ...**
- V13 The next night, David invited Uriah and made him **drunk** ... but he did not go down to his house.



David's Sin (2 Samuel 11)

1-2 weeks?

- V14 In the morning **David wrote a letter** to Joab ...
- V15 "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting ... and **drawback from him.**"
- V17 and some of the **servants of David among the people fell ...**

Don't miss this

1-2 weeks?

- V21 Say, "Your servant **Uriah the Hittite is dead** also."
- V25 David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, '**Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another.** Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him."



David's heart

*³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

*⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of **summer**. – Psalm 32:3-4*

Months

- V27 And when the mourning was over ... **Bathsheba became his wife** and bore him a son.

Nathan's Confrontation (2 Samuel 12)

- V1-3 There were **two men** in a certain city, the **one rich** and the **other poor**. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb ...
- V4 Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, **but he took the poor man's lamb ...** 'aṗ ... nostrils flared
- V5 Then **David's anger** was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "**As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die.**"
- V7 Nathan said to David, "**You are the man!**"
- V13 **I have sinned against the Lord.**
- V18 On the seventh day **the child died.**
- V24 Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, **and she bore a son**, and he called his name **Solomon.**

9+
months

Another
12+
months



David's List of Sins

The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
5. Honor thy father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. You shall not covet thy neighbor's house, wife, servants, or anything that is his.

- **Omission / Neglect of Duty**: David stayed behind in Jerusalem instead of going out to lead his army to battle as kings normally did.
- **Lust and Covetousness**: David saw Bathsheba bathing, inquired about her, and chose to desire and **take** another man's wife (violating the **tenth commandment** and **eighth commandment**)
- **Misuse of Authority and Adultery**: David used his royal power to summon Bathsheba to the palace and slept with her while she was married to Uriah the Hittite (violating the **seventh commandment**).
- **Deception and Cover-up**: David tried to trick Uriah into returning home to sleep with his wife so the pregnancy would appear to be Uriah's
- **Murder (Proxy Murder)**: When the deception failed, David arranged for Uriah to be placed on the front lines of fierce combat and abandoned to be killed by the enemy (**violating the sixth commandment**).
- **Bearing False Witness / Manipulation**: David used Joab and Uriah himself to carry the secret, fatal orders that sealed Uriah's death sentence (violating the **ninth commandment**).

Psalm 51

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

¹ 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.

Psalm 51

Key Themes

- 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.

Plea for Mercy

David does not make excuses or blame others; he immediately asks God for grace based solely on God's steadfast love and abundant mercy.

Acknowledgment of Sin

David uses different Hebrew words for wrongdoing to show the depth of his fault.

Desire for Internal Cleansing

David realizes that outward rituals cannot fix his condition. He asks God to "wash" and "purge" him, famously praying, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."*

Restoration of Joy

David pleads not just to escape punishment, but to regain the joy of his relationship with God and to be spiritually revived so he can teach others.

Psalm 51

Plea for Mercy

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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.

¹ *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

² *Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. – Psalm 32:1-2*
and blameless in your judgment.

This opening provides a contrast to the beginning of other penitential psalms. Psalm 51 **begins with a plea** to God to be **gracious** to David according to His **lovingkindness**. Other psalms by David seem to first think of avoiding God's wrath, anger, and chastening:¹

- Psalm 6:1 begins "O Lord, **rebuke me not in your anger**, nor discipline me in your wrath."
- Psalm 38:1 begins "O Lord, **rebuke me not in your anger**, nor discipline me in your wrath!"

Question: How do you approach God – to avoid his anger or to appeal to his mercy and grace?

¹<https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/tbs/meaning/psa-51-v1-3.cfm?a=529001>

Psalm 51

Acknowledgment of Sin

*I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
– Psalm 32:5*

David uses “**my**” five times in these two verses:

- David said to Nathan, “*I have sinned against the LORD*” (2 Samuel 12:13) – a good and direct confession, **without excuse** and **without blame**.

¹ 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
*Question: When I sin, is my first instinct to
confess or is it to excuse, minimize, and blame?*

➤ **Transgression** (rebellion or crossing a clear boundary).

➤ **Iniquity** (twisting or distorting what is right; perversity, depravity).

➤ **Sin** (missing the mark or standard of God).

- David didn’t say, “My punishment is ever before me,” or “My consequences are ever before me.” What bothered him was **his sin**. Many grieve over the consequences of sin, but few over sin itself.¹

¹<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/psalm-51/>

Psalm 51

Acknowledgment of Sin

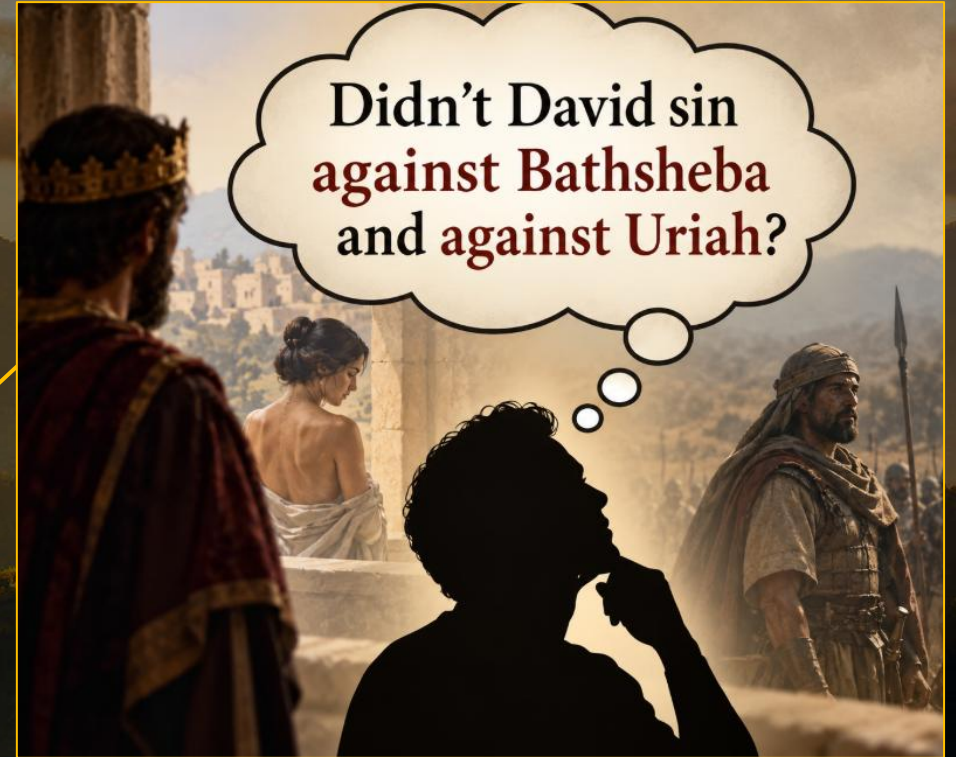
Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

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according to your abundant mercy
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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.



Anyone **struggle** with this statement?

- What about soldiers who died with Uriah?
- What about Uriah's family?
- What about civil war that ensued and **20,000** Israelites who were killed (2 Sam 18:7)?

Against You Only Have I Sinned

- Most scholars and authors skip right past this ...
- Example:¹
 - This is an important truth to remember in our walks of obedience to Christ. Every time we sin, we aren't doing wrong only to others but to God first and foremost. Sin isn't isolated to the person or place that it was done ...
- Example:²
 - Sin, by definition in the Bible, is not wronging another person. It is assaulting the glory of God, rebelling against God. Sin, by definition, is a vertical phenomenon ...
- Example:³
 - So, when David said, "Against you, you only, have I sinned," he was acknowledging his rebellion against God. He was asking forgiveness for his dismissal of God's commands ...
- Example:⁴
 - Sin is always personal, and it's always against God. The way our sin hurts others is the collateral of that first refusal.

Peter: "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?" – Matt 18:21

Collateral damage?
Depends on your position.

¹<https://biblememorize.com/2015/05/10/against-you-only-have-i-sinned/>
²<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/against-you-only-have-i-sinned>

³<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/against-you-only-have-i-sinned>
⁴<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/against-you-only-have-i-sinned>

Against You Only Have I Sinned

- To a modern reader, David's statement seems deeply unfair:
 - However, in ancient pagan cultures, **the King was the law**.
 - Kings ruled with absolute, uncontested sovereign power.
 - Legally speaking, a monarch could not "**commit a crime**" against a common subject because the subject and all their property belonged entirely to the crown.



- The Divine Distinction:
 - While earthly laws protected a king's actions as an absolute monarch, Israel's theological framework was fundamentally different.
 - The King of Israel **was not a god**; he was a servant subject to the Higher Law of Yahweh.

Against You Only Have I Sinned

- Believe the answer lies within Nathan's confrontation of David:

*⁷Then Nathan said to David, "**You are the man!** This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. **And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.**' – 2 Sam 12:7-8*



- The key is probably in verse 9:

*Why have you **despised the word of the LORD,** to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. – 2 Sam 12:9*

What "word of the Lord" did David despise?

Against You Only Have I Sinned

1. God had placed **restrictions** on kings in Deuteronomy 17:16-17

KINGS MUST NOT ACCUMULATE



HORSES

MUST NOT ACCUMULATE
MANY HORSES



WIVES

MUST NOT ACCUMULATE
MANY WIVES



GOLD & SILVER

MUST NOT ACCUMULATE
MUCH GOLD AND SILVER

DEUTERONOMY 17:16-17

“The king must not multiply horses for himself or send the people back to Egypt to get more of them, and he must not take many wives for himself, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold for himself.”

David's wives:

1. **Michal** – Saul's daughter and David's first wife.
2. **Abigail** – The widow of Nabal from Carmel.
3. **Ahinoam** – From Jezreel.
4. **Maacah** – Daughter of Talmai, King of Geshur (married while in Hebron).
5. **Haggith** (married while in Hebron).
6. **Abital** (married while in Hebron).
7. **Eglah** (married while in Hebron).

7 years

8. **Bathsheba** – Former wife of Uriah the Hittite, married later in Jerusalem.

33 years

Against You Only Have I Sinned

2. In addition, God had given **instructions** for kings in Deuteronomy 17:18-20

¹⁸And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, **he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law**, approved by the Levitical priests. ¹⁹**And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life**, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, ²⁰**that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers**, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, **so that he may continue long in his kingdom**, he and his children, in Israel. – Deut 17:18-20



Kings in Israel had a higher responsibility

Review of David's Box Score

Military Leader

- Stayed home when kings go out to battle.
- Slept until late in the afternoon (on his couch) while army besieged Rabbah.



A hard heart

The Commandments

6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. You shall not covet thy neighbor's house, wife, servants, or anything that is his.



A heart that is softening

King's Responsibility

- Not acquire many wives (seven before Bathsheba).
- Write out a copy of the law and read it.
- Not be lifted up above his brothers.



A broken heart

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Against You Only Have I Sinned

- Consequences were spelled out in Deuteronomy 17:

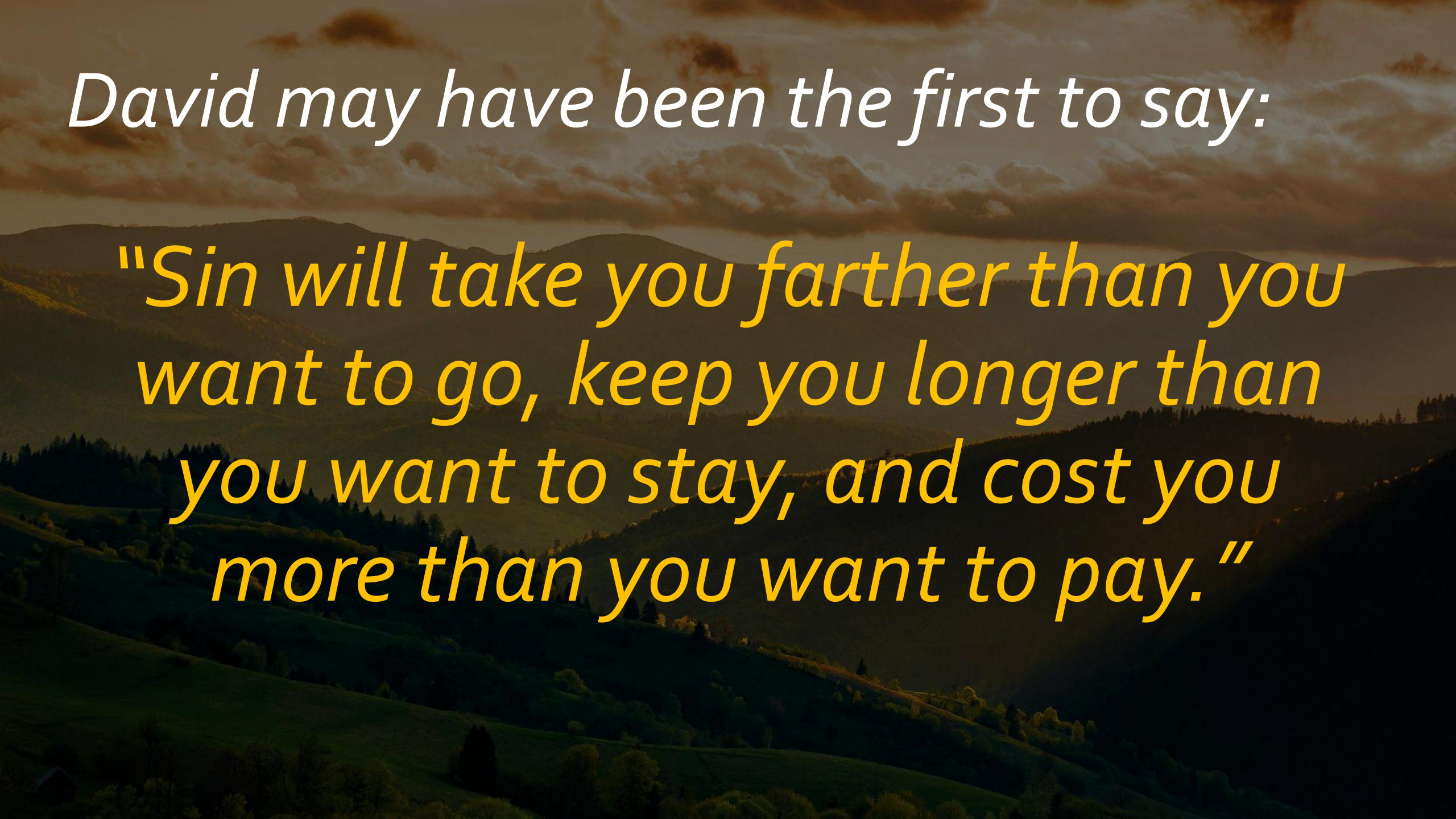
*so that he may continue long in his kingdom, **he and his children**, in Israel. – Deut 17:20b*

Absalom's rebellion.

*¹¹ Thus says the LORD, '**Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house.** And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹² **For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.**' – 2 Sam 12:11-12*

- David's response:

*David said to Nathan, "**I have sinned against the LORD.**" – 2 Sam 12:13*



David may have been the first to say:

"Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay."

Psalm 51

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

– Psalm 32:3-5

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 Do not cast away from your presence,
O God, my Spirit from me.
of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹² Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will turn to you.

David's conviction appears
in verse 4b and verse 6.

David: You are right regardless
of the consequences.

Psalm 51

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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.

- David is not implying that he was conceived illegitimately.
- From this and similar passages we gain the Biblical idea of *original sin* – the idea that all humans are born sinners, receiving a sinful nature as sons of Adam and daughters of Eve.¹



Quoted by Paul in
Romans 3:10-12.

To the choirmaster. **Of David.**

¹The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is none who does good.

²The LORD looks down from heaven on the
children of man,
*to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after God.*

³They have all turned aside; together they have
become corrupt;
*there is none who does good,
not even one. – Psalm 14:1-3*

¹<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/psalm-51/>

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and sinners will return to you.

- Original sin can be defined as “the moral corruption we possess as a consequence of Adam’s sin, resulting in a sinful disposition manifesting itself in habitually sinful behavior.”¹

*The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it? – Jer 17:9*

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. – Rom 5:12

²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
– 1 Cor 15:21-22

*Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
– John 3:3*

Psalm 51

Restoration of Joy



- 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.

- The pinnacle and *heart* of the entire Psalm.
- These are more than just poetic words – they are *heartfelt* pleas from David, who recognizes that he is in a place of *real danger*:
 - Danger of losing his *kingship*
 - Danger of losing his *sanity*

} Saul



Psalm 51

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¹² Res and
¹³ The and sinners will return to you.

*Question: Why is David asking for
something to be created in him
rather than simply repaired?*

Only
God can
do

- “The word *bārā’* (create) that begins this section is used in Genesis 1 for the creation of the heavens and the earth by God. Strictly used, this word describes **what only God can do**: create *ex nihilo*, out of nothing.” – James Montgomery Boice¹
- “As David grappled with the depth of his own sin, he realized the only solution will be a new, *clean*, pure *heart*. And that is something God provides.”
- “David is not asking God to simply take his sins off his record. He is asking God to *make him* the kind of person who loves to do God's will more than anything else.”



¹Boice, James Montgomery. *Psalms, Volume 2: Psalms 42–106*. An Expositional Commentary. Grand Rapids

Psalm 51

The Good News of the Gospel for NT Believers

*¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,**
¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
– Ephesians 1:13-14*

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

*¹⁰Create 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.***

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

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

Restoration of Joy

- In the OT, God's **Spirit** came upon people for a special service. God's Spirit descended on David when he was anointed as king:¹

*¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. **And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.** – 1 Sam 16:13*

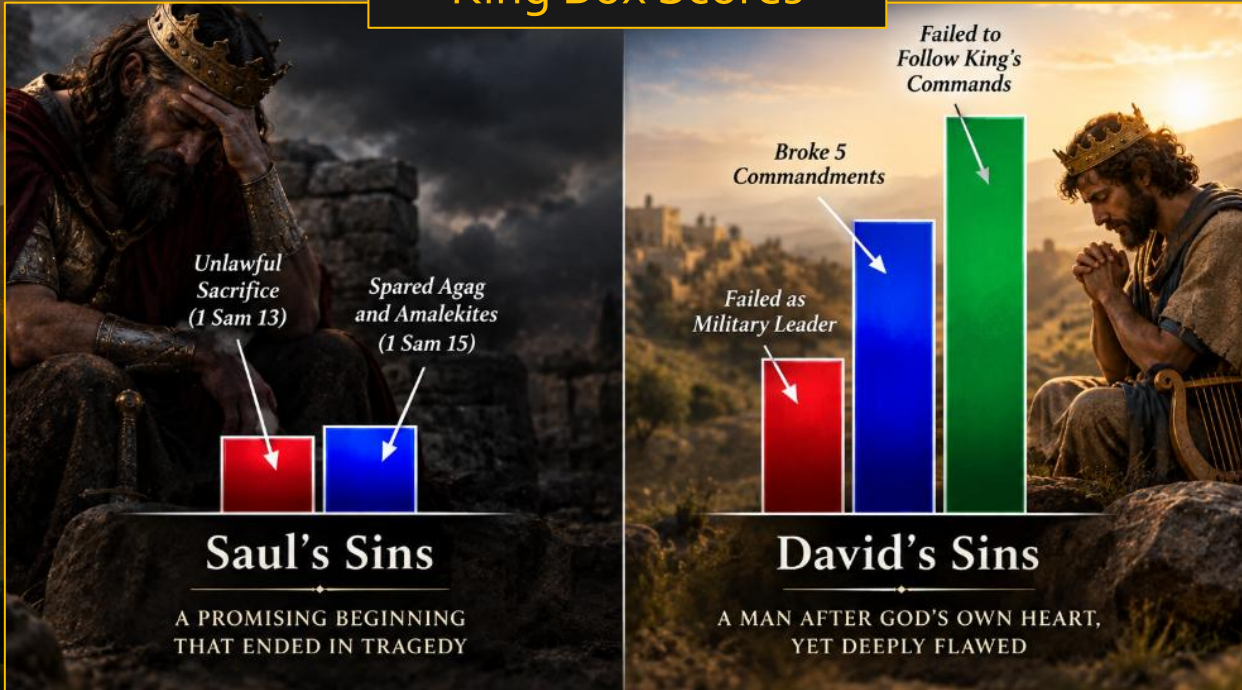
- The likely background for David's **fear** was the **example of Saul**, from whom the Spirit of the Lord had departed after he had sinned when defeating the Amalekites:

*¹⁴Now **the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul,** and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him. – 1 Sam 16:14*

David had a legitimate reason to fear the Holy Spirit might depart from him.

Psalm 51

King Box Scores



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.

Legitimate fear for David

Restoration of Joy

- Samuel to King Saul:

Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep ... – 1 Sam 15:3

What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear? – 1 Sam 15:14

Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?" – 1 Sam 15:19

- Nathan to King David:

Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight?" – 2 Sam 12:9

- Saul/Samuel:

Saul: "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words – 1 Sam 15:24

Samuel: "For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." – 1 Sam 15:27

Psalm 51

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
– Psalm 32:3-4

You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
– Psalm 32:7

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.

Restoration of Joy

- Restore to me the joy of your salvation:
 - Seems to imply that David had “lost” the joy of his salvation.

Have you ever been in that same situation?

- Sin creates a barrier in a person's daily walk with God. The joy fades because the close connection feels blocked.¹



Even today, we can lose the joy of our salvation. We will not lose salvation – sin will not separate the believer from God – but it can rob us of joy and the enjoyment of close fellowship with our Savior.¹

Praying for “joy in our salvation” is an honest prayer.

¹<https://www.gotquestions.org/restore-joy-salvation.html>

Or “guilt of bloodshed”. Likely a reference to blood on his hands for having Uriah killed.

Psalms 51

Restoration of Joy

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 will you say, “Do not build up the wall of the enemy,
nor will I build it, nor will I repair it.”

*Question: What does Psalm 51
teach us about the kind of
worship God values most?*

Reference again to King Saul?

⁸Seven days you shall **wait**, until I [Samuel] come
to you and show you what you shall do ...
– 1 Sam 10:8

⁸[Saul] waited seven days, the time appointed by
Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the
people were scattering from him. ⁹**So Saul said,**
“Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace
offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.”
– 1 Sam 13:8-9

**“I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has
turned back from following me and **has not****
performed my commandments.” – 1 Sam 15:11

Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice,**
and to listen than the fat of rams. – 1 Sam 15:22

Psalm 51

Restoration of Joy

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;
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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

*It is not repentance if we have no
intention to change and turn from it.*

*Psalm 51 teaches us that repentance is not simply asking God to forgive
what we have done – it is asking Him to transform who we are.*

- John MacArthur writes:

"Ritual without genuine repentance is useless. However, with the right heart attitude, sacrifices were acceptable."¹

- God does not take pleasure in outward acts of worship if the person's heart is proud or unrepentant.



Summary of Psalm 51

Key Themes

Plea for Mercy

David does not make excuses or blame others; he immediately asks God for grace based solely on God's steadfast love and abundant mercy.

Acknowledgment of Sin

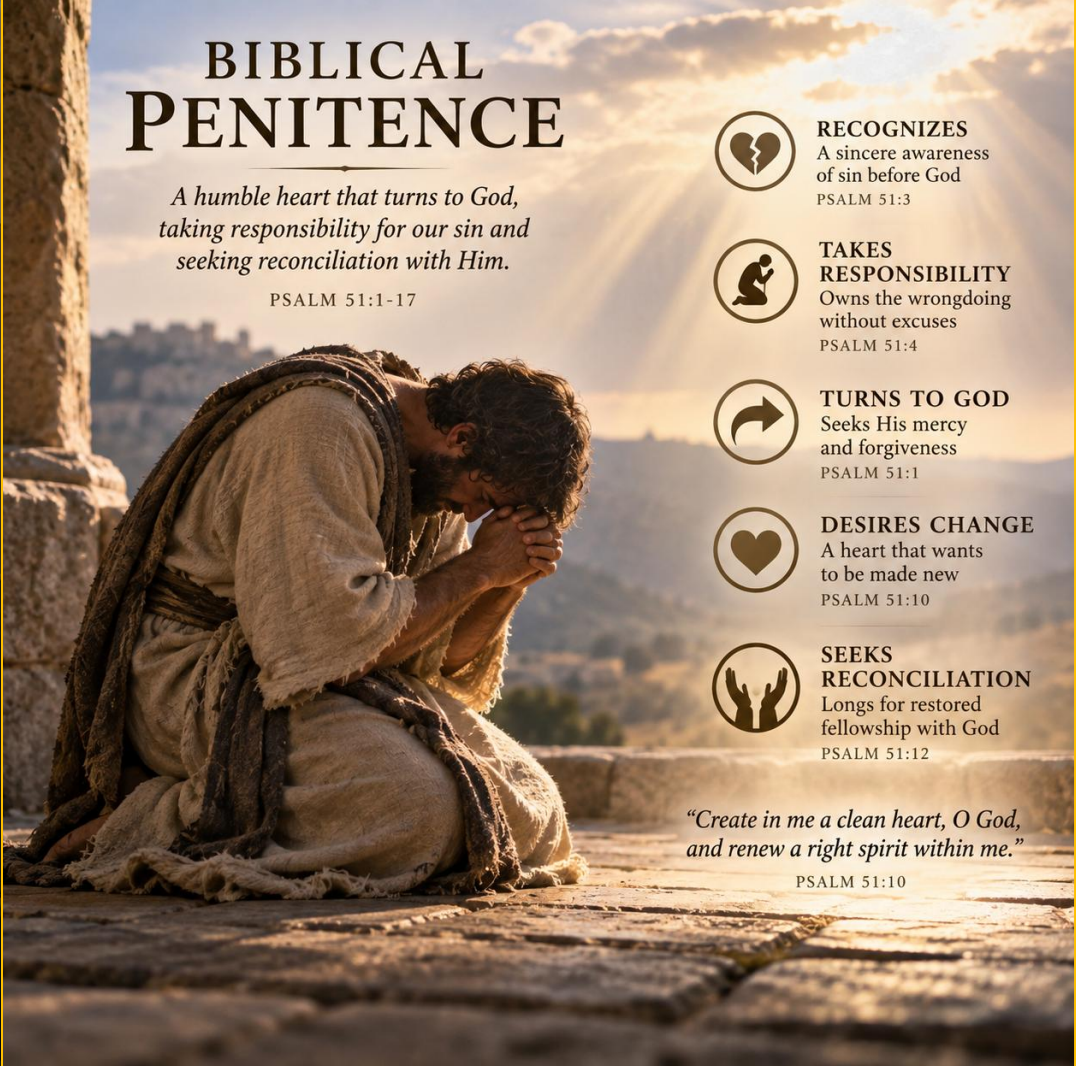
David uses different Hebrew words for wrongdoing to show the depth of his fault.

Desire for Internal Cleansing

David realizes that outward rituals cannot fix his condition. He asks God to "wash" and "purge" him, famously praying, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."*

Restoration of Joy

David pleads not just to escape punishment, but to regain the joy of his relationship with God and to be spiritually revived so he can teach others.



**BIBLICAL
PENITENCE**

*A humble heart that turns to God,
taking responsibility for our sin and
seeking reconciliation with Him.*

PSALM 51:1-17

-  **RECOGNIZES**
A sincere awareness
of sin before God
PSALM 51:3
-  **TAKES
RESPONSIBILITY**
Owns the wrongdoing
without excuses
PSALM 51:4
-  **URNS TO GOD**
Seeks His mercy
and forgiveness
PSALM 51:1
-  **DESIRES CHANGE**
A heart that wants
to be made new
PSALM 51:10
-  **SEEKS
RECONCILIATION**
Longs for restored
fellowship with God
PSALM 51:12

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

PSALM 51:10

Psalm 51 compared to Psalm 32



David crying out,
"God, forgive me
and change me."



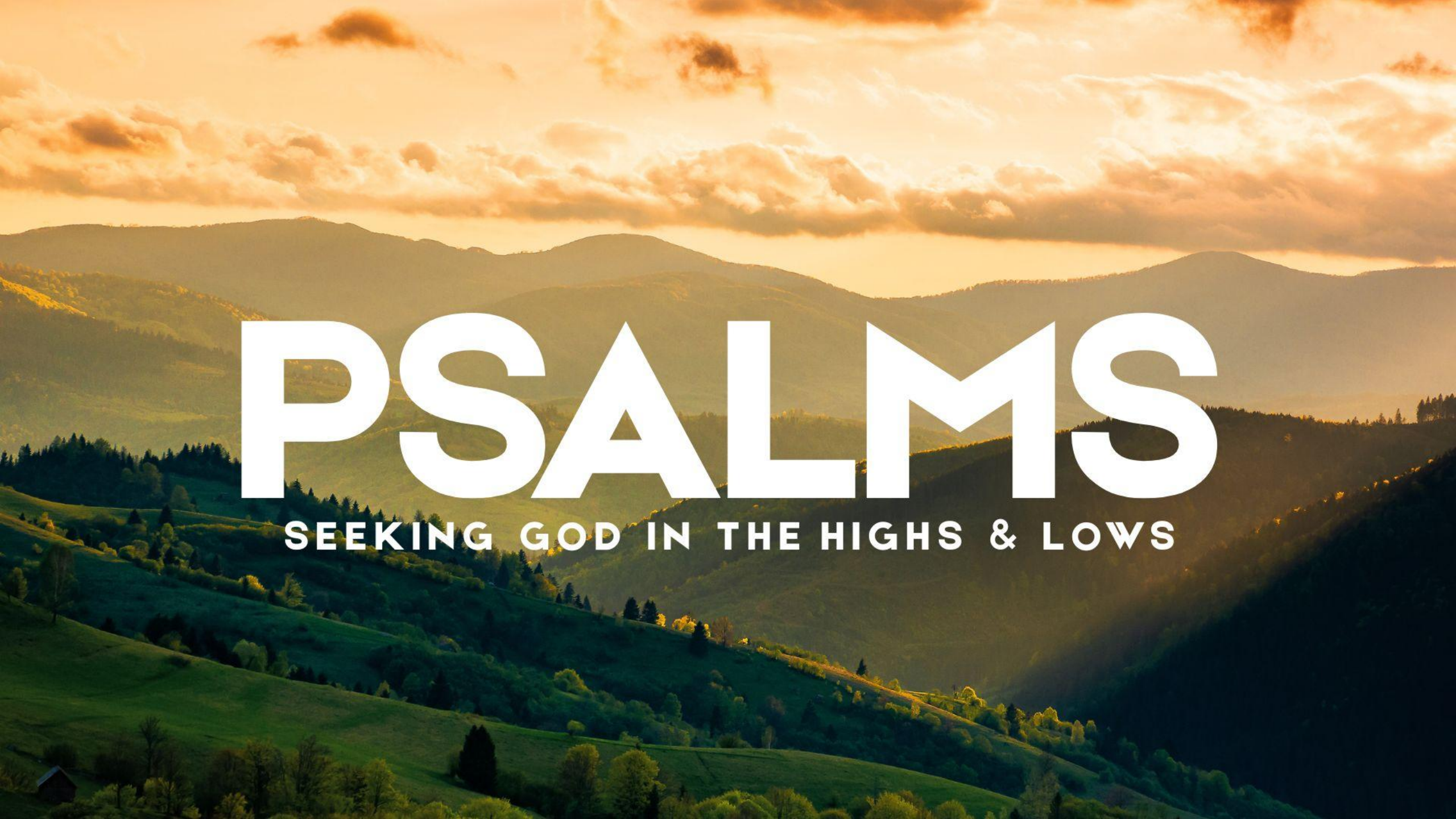
**The Process of
Repentance**

David looking back
and saying, "What a
blessing it is to be
forgiven."



**The Blessings of
Forgiveness**

*Both point to the same fundamental truth:
Sin concealed brings misery.
Sin confessed brings forgiveness.
Forgiveness brings joy and restoration.*



PSALMS

SEEKING GOD IN THE HIGHS & LOWS