



**Caught in Your Sin!
Now Everyone Knows
Our Choice – Repent or Reject
Psalm 51**

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Psalm 51:title–19

“For the music director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. **Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithfulness; According to the greatness of Your compassion, wipe out my wrongdoings. Wash me thoroughly from my guilt And cleanse me from my sin. For I know my wrongdoings, And my sin is constantly before me. Against You, You**



only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in guilt, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in secret You will make wisdom known to me. **Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; Cleanse me, and I will be whiter than snow.** Let me hear joy and gladness, Let the bones You have broken rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins And wipe out all my guilty deeds. **Create in me a clean heart, God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit.** Then I will teach wrongdoers Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You. Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. Lord, open my lips, So that my mouth may declare Your praise. **For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, God, You will not despise.** By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then bulls will be offered on Your altar.” (NASB 2020)

As we go about doing life, many times we forget just how horrible our sin can become if left unchecked. All of us have the capability of not only sinning but justifying anything we do, especially if we are the beneficiaries, then we can justify it; and of course, try to make sure no one else discovers what we did. Keeping everything hidden usually is part of the overall calculus as we decide whether to engage in what we think will provide our perceived ultimate desires for us, or not.

Sin is a horrible disease that has destroyed the entire human race and cursed the universe. But Jesus went to the cross to redeem us from the ultimate result of sin which is death.

The problem with sin is this, Satan lies to us and tells us that no one knows, it will just be this little fling. David believed that and took the bait. No one would know but him and Bathsheba.

But David’s servants and guards knew, they went to get info about her and then fetched her at the command of David.

David could have turned away, but he didn’t. Why did he make an inquiry and then why, even after finding out who she was, did he order her to be brought to him?

Satan threw out the bait, David took the bait, and now he is reeling David in.

2 Samuel 11:3–5

“So David sent servants and inquired about the woman. And someone said, “Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” Then David sent messengers and had her brought, and when she came to him, he slept with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. But the woman conceived; so she sent word and informed David, and said, “I am pregnant.”” (NASB 2020)

That was not the first time in history that had taken place nor was it the last. There are men all over the globe right now finding out that their fling is pregnant and now they are trying to figure out how to tell their wife about it. David opted to hide it.

If you read the entire story in 1 Samuel, you discover that at this point David has Joab send him Uriah the Hittite. He didn’t tell Joab why, but he is putting his cover up plan into place by calling Uriah home so he will go to his wife and then we can all say the child is his. But Uriah is loyal to David, he has been for years. He is also loyal to the rest of the army and refuses to provide any luxury or time at home for himself since none of his brothers out in the field get that while they are engaged in combat operations.



David was unsuccessful in getting Uriah to go home to his wife, so he issues unusual orders to Joab and sends them via Uriah.

2 Samuel 11:15

"He had written in the letter the following: "Station Uriah on the front line of the fiercest battle and pull back from him, so that he may be struck and killed."" (NASB 2020)

Joab followed his orders and not only was Uriah killed, but several others as well.

Now the sin of David has cost the lives of several soldiers as well as Uriah, he has been killed, murdered actually. If you want to know the definition of perfidy, it will show a picture of Uriah and David. Treachery, yes. Sin, absolutely.

The only person who knew of the plan to remove Uriah was Joab, and he did not have all the facts.

So, let's examine so far; a glance of someone bathing, that turned into a stare that turned into a desire that turned into adultery and now she is pregnant. Cover it up by trying to get her husband to think the child is his but that didn't work so, David arranges for Uriah's death.

Uriah's bride still loves him and mourns but shortly thereafter David marries her and surprise, she has a baby, but it hasn't been more than about six months. David believed he had successfully covered everything up.

But he didn't cover it up. The Lord knows exactly what he did and by now, so does the entire palace staff and remember, she is the daughter of Eliam, the granddaughter of Ahithophel (2 Samuel 23:34), the same man who would later turn on David when Absalom rebels and tries to take the throne (2 Samuel 15:31). Yes, word gets around.

But David does nothing, says nothing, and this goes on for almost a year. In all the surrounding nations at that time, this is just BAU. It was a common practice in the world and David picked up on that and did it as well. But it is not to be done in Israel. How is David dealing with it. How do any of us deal with sin that we are desperately trying to hide. Sleepless nights, worry, and more.

Psalms 32:3-4

"When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality failed as with the dry heat of summer. Selah" (NASB 2020)

I suspect he is not quite himself anymore. It looks like he is aging almost daily.

I will never forget questioning a young man who had been arrested by the local police for theft. He was caught in the act, and they called us when they found out he was an airman. We did a quick search and found out that he was the subject of an investigation into over 30 theft cases of radios from the inside of cars on the base he was from.

I watched a bit of the interrogation, and he wasn't admitting to anything at all. He didn't do it or so he said. I prayed, asked for wisdom and then I talked to him and asked him about his motivation behind it all implying he did it to pay for drugs and I got a response I did not expect. He said drugs were not legal for members of the Air Force, so I asked, was it for fun then? He said yes, it was and then confessed to all the thefts.

It was like a dam being opened. He literally had to get all of it, and there were some we did not know about, off his chest. That is what sin does to you. He was caught and he knew it. Might as well tell us more than we wanted to know.



David is confronted by Nathan who presents a straw man case for judgment from the King. The carefully crafted case, related to David, publicly in the throne room in front of everyone, infuriated David who was ready to hunt down the alleged strawman who had committed the crime Nathan carefully outlined.

2 Samuel 12:5–15

“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, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.” Nathan said to David, “You are the man!** Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. 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. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ 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. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’” David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”** And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.” Then Nathan went to his house. And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and he became sick.” (ESV)

And listening into all of that was David’s staff and advisors, including Bathsheba’s grandfather, Ahithophel. The same man who would later recommend to Absalom the exact thing he heard in the room said by Nathan the prophet (2 Samuel 16:21).

I wonder how long Ahithophel plotted and schemed to obtain revenge on David for what he did to his family. It still did not end well for Ahithophel as he wound up hanging himself (2 Samuel 17:23) as a type of Judas Iscariot who also acted treacherously towards a future son of David, Jesus Christ.

David could have denied it all, he didn’t. He could have had Nathan executed, but he didn’t. Or he could admit to everything, which is what David did. God was right about him, He did indeed know his heart. Later, this would be related about David.

1 Kings 15:4–5

“But for David’s sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, to raise up his son after him and to establish Jerusalem, because **David did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and did not deviate from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.**” (NASB 2020)

This is indeed David’s great sin, and he confessed it to Nathan. Nathan went to the King, told him he had done wrong, and the King admitted it and repented of his sin, in front of the entire throne room. Psalm 51 is the result. This Psalm is a prayer of confession from David of his sin to the Lord and his cry for forgiveness.

Psalm 51:1–3

“**Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithfulness; According to the greatness of Your compassion, wipe out my wrongdoings. Wash me thoroughly from my guilt And cleanse me from my sin. For I know my wrongdoings, And my sin is constantly before me.**” (NASB 2020)



Sin is not simple, it is complicated, almost multidimensional in the impact it has on us and David uses three terms here to describe his sin. He is relying on the grace of God as he begins his confession.

First of all he calls his sin, “wrongdoings.” The word in Hebrew is $\text{פֶּסָעַ$ (pesa).

This word means “defection, rebellion...a fault, a trespass...especially, sin, transgression against God. (Gesenuis and Tregelles 2003, 695)

To commit wrongdoing is to “step over the boundaries of God. God has put up certain boundaries in this life. He has certain physical laws. He has certain moral laws. He has certain spiritual laws. Any time man attempts to step over any of them, he’ll have to suffer the consequences.” He will indeed reap what he sows. (McGee 1997, 762)

The next term that David uses is guilt. He wants to be washed “from my guilt.” The word for guilt is $\text{אֲוֹנוֹ$ (āwoni) which means “perversity, depravity, a depraved action, a crime, a sin...It is often guilt contracted by sinning...anything unjustly acquired which (would be) sin...the penalty of sin. (Gesenuis and Tregelles 2003, 614)

When David uses this term, he is telling God there is no excuse for what he did. You cannot apologize for this, you cannot excuse this, you cannot condone this. It is guilt. He is guilty of the crime.

Thus, the reliance up front in verse one on the grace of God. This is the spiritual impact of the crime. I have listened to folks try and justify their actions, their crimes and all I was reminded of, when I heard them, was how evil all of mankind really is if we are left to our own devices without the Lord stepping in and stopping us. When a convicted murderer admits he killed his own wife because she deserved it for arguing with him, we have arrived at the definition of this word. But thanks to Jesus, our God is in the business of forgiving the unforgivable. Jesus turned everything on its head when He engaged in this conversation with Peter.

Matthew 18:21–22

“Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.” (ESV)

When we come to Jesus, we are forgiven, by God because of Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8–9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (ESV)

The Apostle Paul was, prior to his conversion, a hunter/killer of Christians.

But he was forgiven of his sin when he was confronted by Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. A modern example would be someone who has actively hunted and killed Christians for ISIS finding Christ himself and becoming a preacher of the word.

Why did Ahithophel later do what he did and turn into the traitor he became? He refused to forgive David. Jesus provided a parable when Peter asked his question about forgiveness. In His example, the unforgiving servant, placed himself through his own actions into the hands of the torturers (Matthew 18:32-35).

For the follower of Jesus Christ, we are called to be like our Lord.



If we refuse to forgive others because we reject the cross, we do not escape suffering. We condemn ourselves to a greater torment, for instead of absorbing the hurt and moving on, we hammer the nail of hurt in more deeply. We prolong the pain. It is like having a piercing thorn embedded in the finger and refusing to have it taken out. If we plan revenge on those who have wronged us we punish ourselves far more than we punish them. (Judd 2005, 82)

The third term that David uses here is sin.

There are two words translated with the English word sin. In verses 2 and 3 it is the Hebrew word *chattath*, meaning “sin offering.” In verse 4 it is *chata*, translated in the Septuagint by the Greek word *hamartia*, meaning “to miss the mark.” That’s all—just miss the mark. We don’t come up to God’s standard, and it is in that sense that all of us today are sinners. None of us come up to the standard of God. (McGee 1997, 762)

David admits to defecting and rebelling against God. A rebellion that has resulted in guilt being dumped on him for what he did. He missed the mark of holiness called for by the Lord by sinning against God.

Psalms 51:4

“Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.” (NASB 2020)

David has taken those three terms that he used earlier and now has distilled them down to a single term, evil. And that is the problem we have in our culture today. God has specifically named certain activities as sin and in some cases, He has added the term, “abomination” as part of the definition as well.

That has not stopped so called pastors and teachers throughout the church today from affirming sinful lifestyles. They are affirming evil.

For example, “every regulation in the Bible assumes male-female sex as the background—the OT, NT, Jesus, Paul—even where not stated explicitly, it’s always the underlying assumption.” (McDowell 2017)

Even the Ten Commandments assume male female relationships. But that has not stopped progressive churches from affirming those who are seeking alternative lifestyles to include polyamory, homosexuality, or LGBTQ+. Affirming churches are those who lie to you about what God does and does not consider sin. He has never changed His standards, ever. They are affirming evil.

Paul clearly states in Romans 1:18-23 that his all begins with the rejection of natural law. “Natural law, once rejected, is replaced with sentimentality and pragmatism. Any evil course of action then can be justified if it can be said to be for the sake of a good end. This is a moral consequentialism that is rife with danger. Once we decide that evil can be done for the sake of some good, we effectively deny the reality of intrinsic evil and undermine the intellectual architecture of our moral system.” (Mering 2021)

And once again we are back to lying to ourselves to justify our behavior in the face of what God says in His word. Just like David did.

David not only recognizes and confesses that his sin was evil, but he also recognizes that God is fully in His rights to punish him and discipline as He is. The whole event that David orchestrated was totally and completely, an offense against God.

David recognised that the punishment of his sin was fair and perfectly appropriate. In the purposes of God his sin produces a good purpose—‘that (in the sense of ‘in order that’) you may be found just ...



(verse 4). God is 'just' and 'blameless' when he sentences and passes judgment ('speak ... judge'). (Eveson 2014-2015, 326)

Many today would try and claim this is a one off, it isn't characteristic of who I am. David thought says otherwise. He says it is totally in character with being a sinner, in other words, being human.

Psalm 51:5

"Behold, I was brought forth in guilt, And in sin my mother conceived me." (NASB 2020)

This does not mean that David's mom was the chief of all sinners, she was simply a daughter of Adam and Eve and as such, fallen just like all of us. He was not a sinner because of the way he was raised, or where he was born, or where he grew up. In other words, you can't blame this on anything external, it is all internal, the sin nature. He sinned because he is a sinner, just like all of us. David is not excusing what he did and laying it on something else. That is really popular to do these days. I was born this way, or I was raised this way. A headline from Solomon.

Ecclesiastes 7:20

"Indeed, **there is not a righteous person on earth who always does good and does not ever sin.**" (NASB 2020)

Jeremiah 17:9

"**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick;** who can understand it?" (ESV)

For David, it is all about human depravity and he is extraordinarily open about his own actions and his own sinful nature. He is modeling confession and repentance for us. And now we are beginning to see why God tells us David had a heart that followed God. He does indeed. He wants to be totally transparent to God internally with nothing held back or masked.

Psalm 51:6

"Behold, **You desire truth in the innermost being,** And in secret You will make wisdom known to me." (NASB 2020)

As we come to the Lord when we have sinned, are we brutally honest about our condition with the Lord as David is? He knows that God knows all about him and he wants to be fully transparent, truthful in his spirit towards the Lord.

David has been wearing a mask of respectability for some time now, but that was all phony. Now he is being real in his relationship with the Lord and as a result, with others as well.

Psalm 51:7-9

"Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; Cleanse me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness, Let the bones You have broken rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins And wipe out all my guilty deeds." (NASB 2020)

When David says "purify me with hyssop," he is recognizing the cost of his sin and what it will take to forgive his sin. There is nothing magical in using hyssop, which is an herb from the mint family. It does have cleansing, medicinal and flavoring properties and is still all over the middle east. Hyssop was used as a paintbrush of sorts in Exodus 12:22 to apply the blood of the Passover lamb on the door posts and lintel to mark the house as one the death angel would Passover.

We also see hyssop used for applying blood as part of the cleansing ceremony for someone who has been cleansed of leprosy, touched a dead body as well as for a house of mold. When David says "purify



me with hyssop," he is implying that the blood of sacrifice should be sprinkled on him. He is wanting the reality of what the ceremonial use pointed to.

When David asks to be cleansed, the word he uses "is more vigorous than the translation might suggest, for it includes pounding, stamping, and vigorous rubbing in order to loosen the dirt. But there again, if God does it, the effect will be an adequate cleansing, in fact, he shall become "whiter than snow." (Leupold 1959, 404)

David is not sad because he was caught, he is sad because he sinned. He is overwhelmed by the guilt of what he has done so as he continues, he is asking the Lord to restore him back to being a whole man after the crushing blow given to him, and totally deserved, from Nathan the prophet. He wants to hear joy again and gladness again.

As David continues in verse 9, knowing how horrible his own sin is, he asks God, after the process of admitting and asking forgiveness, to turn away and totally disregard what it is he did. "hide your face from my sin." David will later write another psalm where he expresses what it means to have sin forgiven by God.

Psalm 103:10–12

"He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our guilty deeds. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our wrongdoings from us." (NASB 2020)

For us a followers of Jesus Christ, when we come to Christ, He forgives us of our sins. This is why Jesus came in the incarnation, this is why He died on the cross, to pay for the penalty for our sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (ESV)

Colossians 1:13–14

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (ESV)

Because of Jesus, when we believe, God chooses to forget our sins.

Hebrews 8:12

"For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." (ESV)

When our sins and iniquities are confessed, God pledges himself to forget them. We are incapable of making up our minds to forget. (Brown 1988, 160)

David's face was ashamed with looking on his sin, and no diverting thoughts could remove it from his memory; but he prays the Lord to do with his sin what he himself cannot. (Spurgeon n.d., 404)

This is not an unusual struggle for anyone who is a believer. We all sin and there are those times where Satan lies to us and whispers we have done something so terrible God could never forgive us. Totally untrue.

Romans 8:1–2

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." (ESV)



His promises made to us in the scriptures are all true to include this promise as well as the one we read in 1 John.

1 John 1:9

“But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness.” (NET 2nd ed.)

For David, sin is destructive, and he reminds us of how destructive it truly is with his next request of the Lord.

Psalms 51:10

“**Create in me a clean heart, God,** And renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (NASB 2020)

David chooses to use the same Hebrew word we see in Genesis 1:1. The word, bara, means to create out of nothing. As a sinner coming to the Lord in repentance, we have nothing except our sin that He forgives.

We have talked about this before as we understand that the reality is all we have to give God is our heart, totally and completely surrendered to Him. Because of the sin nature, our heart is sick, wicked, and on and on. David realizes that and here he asks God to once again create out of nothing, a clean heart for him. There is nothing there for God to work with, it must be a new creation.

I just said, all we have to give God is our heart, but it is old and nasty, why would He want it? He instead makes all things new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“So then, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come!**” (NET 2nd ed.)

When we come to Christ believing what He did for us on the cross, He makes us totally new. You and I may not realize that immediately, but as time goes by, things that used to excite us no longer do. Now we want to hear His word, read His word, study His word and become more like the one we have trusted for our eternity, Jesus Christ. We are made new.

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

David is not done with his requests. He knows who has been in him and leading him all along, the Holy Spirit. Unlike all of us who are New Testament saints and part of the body of Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit at the moment we trust Christ. Prior to the death and resurrection of Christ, prior to Pentecost, that did not happen.

With the realization of the gravity of his sin, and the way he has internally suffered because of that sin, he knows there is a real danger of God doing to him what He did to Saul, withdraw the Spirit.

As we study the Old Testament, we discover three ministries of Him prior to Pentecost. First of all was the indwelling of the Spirit. He was in some, but not all believers. We know God withdrew His spirit from Saul (1 Samuel 6:14) opening him up to demonic attack. He indwelt Joshua (Numbers 27:18), Daniel (Daniel 6:3) as well as the Prophets (1 Peter 1:10-11). He indwelt some of the Kings, like David and Solomon, but He would also withdraw as a result of sin. Today, when we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit enters us and stays with us forever (John 14:16).



Secondly, the Holy Spirit came upon some with power.

For example, He came upon Othniel (Judges 3:9–10); Gideon (Judges 6:34); Jephthah (Judges 11:29); Samson (Judg. 13:24–25; 14:6, 19; 15:14); Saul (1 Sam. 10:9–10); and David (1 Sam. 16:13). (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 10)

As followers of Jesus Christ, we come to understand there are three relationships we have today with the Holy Spirit. The first two of these we see in John 14.

John 14:16–17

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (ESV)

Prior to conversion, it is the Holy Spirit who is with us convicting us of our sin and convincing us that Jesus Christ is the only answer for us. When we believe and invite Christ to take over the rule and reign of our life, thanks to Pentecost and the promise of Jesus here in John 14, the Holy Spirit comes into us and begins to indwell us.

The third relationship we see is the one where He comes upon us.

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (ESV)

What Jesus promised is explained by Chuck Smith who puts it this way. “This relationship is when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. The word is *epi* in the Greek, which means “upon” or “over.” I prefer the translation “overflow” because I believe that this experience allows the Holy Spirit to flow forth out of our lives. Our lives then are not just a vessel containing the Spirit, but they become channels by which the Spirit flows forth to touch the world around us. I also believe this is the objective work of the Spirit. The first work is subjective, when the changes and the transformations take place within me. This “coming upon” experience provides objective evidence of the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit, allowing me to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ. That is God’s ideal and plan—that my life be the instrument through which He can reach the world around me as the Spirit flows forth out of my life.” (Smith 2000, Kindle Location 354)

This “coming upon” has been referred to as the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the filling of the Spirit or the overflowing of the Spirit. This is the experience that Jesus spoke about in John 7:37-39.

Per Jesus, we know that the Holy Spirit is with us, in us, and will give you power when comes upon us. And since we are leaky vessels, subject to grieving Him and sin just like David was, when we come to Him in repentance per 1 John 1:9, we do not have to worry about Him removing the Holy Spirit from us, He will never leave us. But we do have to ask Him to refill us and empower us once again. All we must do is ask. Again, per Jesus.

Luke 11:13

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (ESV)

By the way, the third ministry of the Spirit in the Old Testament was this filling. We see an example in Exodus 28:3, 31:3 and 35:30-31 when God filled men with His spirit in order for them to have the skills



needed to make the Tabernacle. Yes, this is a reference to spiritual gifts but again, not like we see in the New Testament.

David was paranoid that he would no longer have the Holy Spirit in him providing him the wisdom to rule.

What David prays here and asks of the Lord, we do not have to pray. As we have seen, as New Testament followers of Jesus Christ, we are indwelt with the Spirit and He will be with us forever. We can quench him, we can refuse to allow Him to empower us and fill us, but He will never leave us.

When we grieve Him, yes that means you and I have the ability of causing pain to the God of the universe, He becomes inoperative until we repent of our sin that has grieved Him and we return to fellowship.

David is praying for the Spirit to remain with him. He wants restoration.

Psalm 51:12

“Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit.” (NASB 2020)

David does not pray to restore his salvation; there has been no loss of salvation here. The same goes for us as followers of Jesus, yes we can indeed grieve the Holy Spirit with our sin, but we cannot lose our salvation if we have trusted in Christ. Salvation was by grace through faith, not works. It has always been that way. How was Abraham saved?

Genesis 15:6

“And **he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.**” (ESV)

David sinned, but David remained saved. Could this potentially impact reward in eternity? Yes. He was not saved by works or did he forfeit his salvation by sin. He is saved by grace, and he is relying on that grace.

Romans 4:5–8

“And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”” (ESV)

David wants the joy of his salvation to be restored. He wants to be back in the place where he is enjoying the relationship he has with the Lord. “David’s prayer shows something else. A believer’s confession, when genuine and broken before God, seeks harmony with Him. The heart is fervent to know precious closeness with Him in obedient steps.” (Rosscup 2008, 907)

Psalm 51:13

“**Then I will teach wrongdoers Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.**” (NASB 2020)

Once our relationship is right with the Lord and we have once again experienced His mercy just as David is, the natural thing is to tell others of the grace and mercy of God.

Because David has experienced the grace of God, and he has been forgiven of his sin, he can now teach others who may find themselves also in the throes of sin. But to be able to do this, he first must experience forgiveness.



Psalm 51:14

“Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.” (NASB 2020)

David knows that what he has done is worthy of the death penalty. “He therefore throws himself on the mercy of God, the only person who can deliver him from the death penalty he carries.” (Davidson 1998, 170)

David knew there would be consequences to his sin. There always is and he has already been told by Nathan what those would be.

By confessing and repenting of his sin, he is not only looking for forgiveness from the Lord but also to be forgiven of the blood guiltiness of what he has done.

Psalm 51:15–17

“Lord, open my lips, So that my mouth may declare Your praise. For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offering. **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, God, You will not despise.**” (NASB 2020)

David had the resources to bring multiple sacrifices to the Lord. But he also knew that the blood of those animals would not solve his sin problem.

Sin is not a thing you can ritualize away, confess to the priest away, do penance to make it go away. He is not denying the importance of the sacrificial system. What he is saying is that unless the heart is in the right place of repentance, it means nothing.

What is truly important to the Lord he outlines, this is the only thing that will remove the blood guiltiness of his sin, it is all he has to offer to the Lord. Everything else would just be eye wash.

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.” David knows that. For centuries though, man has tried to do everything else to reach God on their own terms rather than His terms.

David is reflecting his understanding of God’s terms. He is not adding or subtracting from that. He is indeed, humbling himself before the Lord.

Isaiah 66:2

“For My hand made all these things, So all these things came into being,” declares the LORD. **“But I will look to this one, At one who is humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at My word.”** (NASB 2020)

David is worshipping once again with a humble heart restored by his Lord. And because of that, he is once again able to intercede for Israel.

Psalm 51:18–19

“By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then bulls will be offered on Your altar.” (NASB 2020)

The great prayer of confession ends. Significantly, it began with concern about sin that brought grief to himself, others and especially God. And it closes with concern for blessing to God’s people and to God. David’s own blessing is obvious as God has sprung him free to intercede, and put a new song of joy in his heart (8; cf. Ps. 40:1–3). (Rosscup 2008, 911)



What is it that we have learned about confession of our sin to the Lord from this?

As a follower of Jesus, we should want to be washed and completely cleansed of our sin, not just have the pressure of what we did wrong removed. There are always consequences to our sin, we repent to be restored and forgiven. Then we ask Him for the wisdom to deal with the consequences. For David, it was a child. Do we really mean business with God when we turn to Him exercising 1 John 1:9?

If we mean business with Him, that means full transparency with Him, He knows it all anyhow but this is about us confessing to Him.

We need to have His attitude towards sin restored to us. AS we understand what His view of our sin is, we understand fully how we have grieved the Holy Spirit and brought pain to our God. Our rebellion against Him and His ways ends as we turn to Him in confession.

This has been all about how revolting sin actually is to the Lord. It is why Jesus Christ went to the cross and died, in order that we would be forgiven of our gross despicable sins. That may not be our view, but it is His and it is not one that is popular in our culture today.

As we confess and return, put the armor back on.

Ephesians 6:10–13

“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.” (NLT)

God indeed will forgive and pardon, but He wants and desires much more from us. He wants all of us and as we give Him all of us, we in turn glorify Him.

And here is an important thing, because I have talked with so many who are followers of Jesus but struggle to understand why God would ever forgive them and bring them back into fellowship because of their sin. He forgave David because David had the faith to know that if he asked God to forgive, He would.

Some fish the sin out of the foul pond again and again, trying to work up sorrow and basing forgiveness on whether they get that certain feeling. A firm and believing look at God as 1 John 1:9 describes Him is a way to victory in confession. (Rosscup 2008, 913)

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (NASB 2020)

Our Lord and Savior loves us just as much now as He did when He died on the cross for us. In fact, He has loved us even from the beginning of everything. Of course, if we ask and confess, He will indeed forgive.



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