

Note: After we are saved we commit sins which disrupt our fellowship with God. Sometimes we commit what the church calls grievous sins. David called by God as a man after his own heart commits adultery and arranges to have Bathsheba's husband killed in battle. This Psalm is about confession and repentance, restoration and purification.

I. True repentance begins with a Spiritual awakening. **2 Samuel 12:7-9** ⁷ *And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;* ⁸ *And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.* ⁹ *Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.* David thinks he has gotten away with his sin but we can never hide the truth from God. Nathan tells David a story which infuriates David but then Nathan gets him to see what he had done was far worse. David's immediate response was **(13) And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.** For many folks it takes a thou art the man moment to wake us up to the reality of our own sin. A believer's heart is broken when he realizes he has violated God's Word. Remember in the dispensation of grace we have the Holy Spirit who uses the word, preached, read or studied to reproach our conscious to provide for us the thou art the man notification. In David's case he has committed 3 presumptuous sins, adultery, lying and murder. All were premeditated without thinking about what God would have him do. David is totally convicted and let's see what he does. David starts his confession with prayer a plea to God.

A.) He asks for mercy based on God's merits not his own. **Verse 1** *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions* Lord I am appealing to your attribute of lovingkindness not because I am your anointed. David knew he was not worthy. Nathan had already told David that God was going to spare him the judgment of death, so what David hoping for here. I believe he is seeking a restored relationship. Next, he asks God to blot out his sin. That has the idea of removing it from his account. It's similar to when we said to the Lord be merciful to me a sinner. What David is asking for is what Christ did for us according to **Colossians 2:13-14** *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;* ¹⁴ **Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;**

B) David asks God to cleanse him from all unrighteousness. *Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.* When a believer is backslidden and living a life of sin they feel dirty in inside. David's plea is for God to make him clean to make him feel clean inside again. **Psalm 32:3-4** *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.* This verse describes what sin can do in the heart of someone who loves God. The best definition of sin is found in **1 John 5:17** **All unrighteousness is sin.** So David is asking God to make him spiritually clean. Believers have the promise of **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* Not just forgiven but cleansed. One of the problems of the modern believer especially in the liberal churches are we are not broken nor do we feel dirty because of our sin. It's only when we are broken that we truly seek forgiveness.

C) We must accept responsibility for our sin unconditionally. We live in a society where our sin is always somebody else's fault. In reality man has been blaming someone else all the way back to the garden. Adam said Eve made me do it. Eve said the serpent beguiled me. Satan turned and there was no one left to blame. David could have said my sins are not my fault. If Bathsheba hadn't of taken a bath at the time I was on the roof I

wouldn't have seen her. **Verse 3** For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. This matches what David wrote in **Psalm 32:5** I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. I am guilty, no more excuses no one else is to blame it is my fault. When you are ready to say that then you are ready to truly confess.

II. David petitions for forgiveness. (7-9) Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; That the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, And blot out all mine iniquities. Stop hiding and blaming other folks and circumstances for your sin. **Dr. Walvord writes:** When David spoke of God's cleansing him with hyssop, he was alluding to the use of hyssop at the religious ceremonies to sprinkle sacrificial blood on the altar. This represented the removal of sin through the shedding of blood (cf. Heb. 9:22). David then asked God to let him once again rejoice in the knowledge of being right with God. The king asked God to remove his sins judicially. It's even better for us; we ask and receive forgiveness for our sins based on Jesus shed blood at Calvary. Once that blood is applied I am restored to a right relationship with the Lord. **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Knowing you are forgiven removes the guilty attitude which keeps us in bondage blocking our fellowship with the Lord.

III. David petitions the Lord for inward renewal. 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. ¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

A) David asks God to give a spirit which is pure. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. He is acknowledging that only God can make his heart clean. **Psalm 32:2** Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. No deception, nothing that you need to hide. He longs to feel clean. He longs to have a spirit which is bent toward God instead of toward the flesh.

B) David ask for God to allow him to continue to serve Him. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. David remembers that God removed his spirit from Saul and Saul was eliminated as king. The plea Lord I need to you to be with me to be king and I know I need your power and guidance if I am to be an effective leader.

C) Lord restore the joy of being in a right relationship. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. **1 John 1:1-4** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; ² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) ³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. What is the joy John is talking about? It is that Jesus came and taught us the truth about God and provided the means for us to know Him personally. To understand that God is real and Jesus is real and that He loves us. Not everybody knows that but we do. One of God's gifts to us is each other. That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ Don't you love to be around God's people.

IV. David declares that after his restoration he will proclaim the truth about God to all who will listen. **Verse 13** Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Lord when they see how you have forgiven me they will praise you and repent. David petitions the Lord for forgiveness and promises to tell others of his grace. That is a lesson for the church of today. People need to know that God is real.