



Keeping It Real Through Prayer

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FearLESS



- During his lifetime, King David did what pleased the Lord, “except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.”

1 Kings 15:4–5 (NKJV)

4 Nevertheless for David’s sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem;

5 because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

- It is amazing that no matter how much good we do most of the time we are reminded of our failure.
- This is David's prayer of confession after Nathan the prophet confronted him with his sins (*2 Sam. 11–12*).
- In his prayer, David expressed three major requests: cleanse me, restore me, and use me.

“Cleanse Me” (vv. 1–7)

Psalm 51:1–7 (NKJV)

1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.

“Cleanse Me” (vv. 1–7)

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

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

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Sin Makes Us Dirty

- What dirt is to the body, sin is to the inner person, so it was right for David to feel defiled because of what he had done.
- By committing adultery and murder, he crossed over the line God had drawn in His law (*“transgression”*); he had missed the mark God had set for him (*“sin”*) and had yielded to his twisted sinful nature (*“iniquity”*).

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Sin Makes Us Dirty

- He willfully rebelled against God, and no atonement was provided in the law for such deliberate sins.

Leviticus 20:10 (NKJV)

‘The man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.

Sin Makes Us Dirty

- He had willfully rebelled against God, and no atonement was provided in the law for such deliberate sins.

Numbers 35:31–32 (NKJV)

31 Moreover you shall take no ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death.

32 And you shall take no ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to dwell in the land before the death of the priest.

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**Keeping It Real
Will Cause Us To
Appeal To God's
Mercy, Grace,
And Love.**

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- David could appeal only to God’s mercy, grace, and love.
- “Blot out” refers to a debt that must be paid, and “cleanse” refers to defilement caused by touching something unclean or from disease.
- “Wash” (vv. 2, 7) refers to the cleansing of dirty clothing.

- In the Jewish society of that day, to wash and change clothes marked a new beginning in life.

Exodus 19:14 (NKJV)

So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes.

- We all need a fresh start, or a new beginning when we sin!

- David had certainly sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah, but his greatest responsibility was to the Lord who had given the law to His people.

2 Samuel 12:13–14 (NKJV)

13 So 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.

14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.”

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- David certainly sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah, but his greatest responsibility was to the Lord who had given the law to His people.

Exodus 20:13–14 (NKJV)

13 “You shall not murder. 14 “You shall not commit adultery.

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- Godly people see all sins primarily as offenses against the Lord.
- Joseph's statement to Potiphar's wife:

Genesis 39:9 (NKJV)

There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

- David openly acknowledged his sins and God's vindication. (4)

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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David Knew The Truth Of God's Word And Loved It.

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Psalm 19:7–11 (NKJV)

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

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10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea,
than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey
and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
And in keeping them there is great reward.

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- For nearly a year he attempted to cover up his sins, but God does not allow His children to sin successfully. Now he asked God for truth and wisdom in his innermost being (v. 6).
- “Hyssop” (v. 7) was a shrub with hairy stems that could be dipped into liquid, and the priests used hyssop to sprinkle blood or water on people needing ceremonial cleansing (*Lev. 14:4, 6; Num. 19:6, 18; see Ex. 12:22*).
- Today’s believers find their cleansing in the work Jesus accomplished on the cross (*1 John 1:5–10; Heb. 10:19–25*).

“Restore Me” (vv. 8-12)

Psalm 51:8–12 (NKJV)

8 Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may 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 steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

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David's sins affected his whole person:

- his eyes (v. 3)
- mind (v. 6)
- ears and bones (v. 8)
- heart and spirit (v. 10)
- hands (v. 14)
- and lips (vv. 13–15)
- Such is the high cost of committing sin. David knew this, so he asked for more than cleansing, as important as that is; he wanted his entire being to be restored so he could serve the Lord acceptably.

- He wanted the joy of the Lord within him (v. 12) and the face of the Lord smiling upon him.

Psalm 44:24 (NKJV)

Why do You hide Your face, And forget our affliction and our oppression?

- David's thought was that the Lord turned His face from David with a broken heart. David heart was broken because he broke God's heart!

- David asked the Lord to create a new heart within him and to give him a steadfast spirit that would not vacillate. Verse 10 is the central verse of the psalm and it expresses the heart of David's concern.

Psalm 51:10 (NKJV)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

- David knew that the inner person—the heart—was the source of his trouble as well as the seat of his joy and blessing, and he was incapable of changing his own heart.

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- Concerning our heart only God can work the miracle of change:

Jeremiah 24:7 (NKJV)

Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.

Ezekiel 11:19 (NKJV)

Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,

- We need the Lord to change our heart which is the seat of our thoughts!
- The Lord gave the Holy Spirit to David when Samuel anointed him.
- David didn't want to lose the blessing of the Spirit, help of the Spirit, the fellowship of the Spirit, and relationship he enjoyed with God!
- That is what happened to Saul when he sinned.

2 Samuel 7:14–15 (NKJV)

14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.

15 But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

- Today the Spirit abides with believers forever (*John 14:15–18*), but God’s children can lose his or her effective ministry by:
 - ▶ Grieving the Spirit (*Eph. 4:30–32*) - λυπέω [lupeo /loo·peh·o/] v. 1 to make sorrowful. 2 to affect with sadness, cause grief, to throw into sorrow. 3 to grieve, offend. 4 to make one uneasy, cause him a scruple.
 - ▶ Lying to Him (*Acts 5:1–3*) - ψεύδομαι [pseudomai /psyoo·dom·ahee/] v. 1 to lie, to speak deliberate falsehoods. 2 to deceive one by a lie, to lie to.

- Today the Spirit abides with believers forever (*John 14:15–18*), but God’s children can lose his or her effective ministry by:
 - ▶ and Quenching Him by deliberate disobedience (*1 Thess. 5:19*). - ζβέννυμι, σβέννυμι [sbennumi /sben·noo·mee/] v. 1 to extinguish, quench. 1A of fire or things on fire. 1A1 to be quenched, to go out. 1B metaph. to quench, to suppress, stifle. 1B1 of divine influence.

We Must Have A Willing Spirit!

Psalm 51:12 (NLT)

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

- A “willing spirit” is one that is not in bondage but is free and yielded to the Spirit of God, who ministers to and through our own spirit.

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We Must Have A Willing Spirit!

Romans 8:14–17 (NKJV)

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

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- It isn't enough simply to confess sin and experience God's cleansing; we must also let Him renew us within so that we will conquer sin and not succumb to temptation.
- The Lord did forgive David but permitted him to suffer the tragic consequences of his sins (*2 Sam. 12:13–14*).

“Use Me” (vv. 13-19)

Psalm 51:13–19 (NKJV)

13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You.

14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O
God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue
shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall
show forth Your praise.

“Use Me” (vv. 13-19)

16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

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You Are God's Servant

- David was God's servant, and he wanted to regain his effectiveness and lead his people. He especially wanted to make careful preparations for the building of the temple. It's interesting that Solomon, the child eventually born to Bathsheba, was chosen to be David's successor and the one to supervise the temple construction. This is God's grace!
- "But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more" (*Rom. 5:20, NKJV*).

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He Wanted To Be Effective!

- David wanted to witness to the lost and wandering and bring them back to the Lord (v. 13), and he wanted to sing the Lord's praises (vv. 14–15).
- “Blood guiltiness or Blood shed” refers to Uriah's blood on David's hands, for it was David who ordered his death (*2 Sam. 11:6ff*; see *Ezek. 3:18–20; 18:13; Acts 20:26*).
- He took responsibility for his actions.

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He Wanted To Be Effective!

Psalm 51:15 (NKJV)

O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

- David was wealthy enough to bring many sacrifices to the Lord, but he knew that this would not please the Lord and that their blood could not wash away his sins.

- David wasn't denying the importance or the validity of the Jewish sacrificial system; he was affirming the importance of a repentant heart and a spirit yielded to the Lord.

Isaiah 57:15 (NKJV)

For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

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- As king, he was certainly burdened for the welfare of Jerusalem and the kingdom, and he knew that his sins had weakened Israel's position among the nations (*2 Sam. 12:14*).
- David must have begun building and repairing his relationship with God so he could remain relevant!
- David destroyed much good when he sinned, but he also did much good during his lifetime and served the Lord faithfully.