

**"A Deeper Understanding of Sin in the Believer's Life"
Psalm 51**

Psalm 51:1-19

Two monumental truths from David's prayer:

1. The only path to forgiveness is repentance (vss. 1-9).

2 Samuel 11:27 (NASB): "...But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD."

2 Samuel 12:13a (NASB): "Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the LORD...'"

One of the greatest indicators of growth in the Christian life is when we begin to see that a sin against others is a sin against God.

Galatians 5:19-20 (NCV): "Making people angry with each other," "being angry," "making trouble," and "causing divisions among people."

I John 1:8

Psalm 32:3

List of character qualities David appeals to in this Psalm:

- Mercy (v. 1)
- Unfailing love (v. 1)
- Great compassion (v. 1)
- Holiness – "done evil in your sight" (v. 4)
- Righteousness – "so that you are proved right when you speak" (v. 4)
- Justice – "And justified when you judge" (v. 4)
- Truthfulness – "You desire truth in the inner parts" (v. 6)
- Wisdom – "You teach me wisdom in the inmost place" (v. 6)
- "The God who saves me" (v. 14)
- Loves worship – "then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you" (v. 19)

Ephesians 2:4-5

Repentance is godly sorrow for your sin, and a resolve to turn from it. It is something that occurs in the heart and involves the whole person in a decision to turn from sin.

Luke 17:3

Revelation 3:19

As David prays, he has a repentant heart. He's come to grips with the awfulness of his sin:

- He feels dirty. Psalm 51:2: "Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."
- It's always on his mind. Psalm 51:3: "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me."
- He realizes he was born with a sinful nature. Psalm 51:5: "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."

2. The only way back to joy and service is the miraculous touch of God.

Psalm 51:17

Psalm 51:12

Psalm 51:13

Psalm 51:15

Psalm 32:1-2

Two power points on Psalm 51:

1. Reconciliation can't take place until repentance takes place.
2. David teaches us that once you've fallen, God can raise you up again.