

# Built To Last 2

## *He Constantly Renews—A Fresh Start*

(preached 1/15/23)

Turn to *Psalms 51:10*.

### LAST WEEK:

- Once a plate is broken it's like Humpty-Dumpty: no one can put it back together again.
- We were all BORN broken because Adam disobeyed and Eve was deceived—they broke the original plate of the human spirit and heart.
- Bad experiences like abuse, trauma, bad choices, etc., have broken us further.
- Brokenness causes us to be blind and deaf to God's voice, overcoming sin, and believing in any promises He makes.
- The Gospel is NOT that God puts the broken pieces back together.
- We bring our broken spirits and hearts to the altar and sacrifice them—we give them up.
- They're not good for us, it doesn't always have to be this way, and they aren't who we are.
- *He gives us a whole new plate—one that He's made and is built to last.*
- We don't get the new one until we're willing to give up the old one.
- God gave us a new spirit on the day of our Salvation! One that looks just like Jesus.
- God gives us a new heart too—one that's friendly, and full of wisdom and understanding.
- God then renews our hearts and minds while we live this life.

TODAY we're going to talk about renewal by first defining what it means and then understanding how it applies to us.

## ALTAR CALL AT END

**Psalms 51 is amazing.** In the first 9 verses, David has humbled himself before God and asked the Lord to cleanse him of all sin. Let's read verse 10:

### **Psalms 51:10-12 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart**, O God, and **renew a right spirit** within me.

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

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

WHINY? If you read the psalms there are times when David gets a little whiny, but he's not afraid to talk about the broken pieces of his life. Not only does he admit that he was conceived in sin—same thing we talked about last week—but that there have been all manner of betrayals and let-downs from other people in his life.

POST ON SM. I think if he were alive today he would be a daily social media poster and where he could sound off on how everyone he thought he could trust has let him down, stabbed him in the back, and are constantly plotting against him. He would go on to say how his heart was broken, his spirit shattered, and that he's ready to die.

SURVIVE? ASKED FOR RENEWAL. That being said, David prayers and pleas to God show how he was able to survive. He didn't ask the Lord to mend his broken heart or put the pieces of his life back together—David always asked for renewal.

## **Renewal is asking God for a new one.**

One that He's made that's better than the OLD ONE.

RPG. Sometimes I wish life were like an RPG video game. If your character is defeated and wounded fighting the monster then you go on side quests to upgrade your sword and armor, not to mention your health, speed, and agility. By the time you fight the same monster who trounced you before, you're much stronger and more durable.

GIVES NEW. The Lord doesn't just heal up the old us. He gives us a new spirit, a new heart, and even a sword and armor. Let's go back to Psalm 51, starting with verse 10:

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart**, O God, and **renew a right spirit** within me.

Right after asking for and receiving forgiveness for all the bad choices he's made in the past, here is David's next plea: **CREATE a new heart.**

DIDN'T ASK FOR.... I know I'm beating this drum over and over because we all need to receive this revelation: David didn't ask "mend the pieces of my broken heart oh Lord!" Nor did he say "heal my wounded heart oh God!"

**David asked for a new one, one that was a direct creation of the Lord.** He gave God his old heart originally broken by Adam, and then his by his parents, supposed friends, and family including his own traitorous son. He brought his shattered heart to the altar and gave it to God, then said "Lord CREATE for me a new heart that's clean!"

CLEAN. Now let's talk about the word "clean", the adjective he used to describe the noun of his heart. Clean translates to *pure and just*.

HURT PEOPLE.... Have you ever heard the statement that "hurt people, hurt people?" It's a vicious cycle, isn't it? We get let down and betrayed by others and we become angry, bitter, and resentful. Where do all these things live? In our hearts. What kind of influence do you think they have there: good or bad?

LEAD AND MERCURY. Do you know that if you drink water from pipes that have lead it slowly drives you crazy? Or if mercury comes into direct contact with your skin too much, the same will happen? When we spend years feeling cheated, ignored, abused, and condescended to it's as though spiritual lead and mercury has wormed their way into our hearts and the result is misery.

**David has experienced a lot of this in his life.** Here's a quick rundown:

- His dad and brothers considered him a nobody, even after—especially after—God had the Prophet Samuel choose him to be the future King of Israel right in front of them. They constantly condescended to him due to their jealousy.
- Saul was like a dad to him until he too became jealous, then he tried to kill David for years.
- His best friend Jonathan ends up dying young.
- His wife Michal ends up despising and betraying him.
- After becoming King, several who pledged loyalty end up stabbing him in the back.
- He commits adultery and murder, and the infant born from his affair dies.
- His own son Absalom takes the throne from him and drives him out of the palace.
- In a dramatic chase scene Absalom dies, and David is heartbroken.

BITTER OLD MAN? There are more things I could point out, but suffice to say David could have and should have ended up as a bitter old man that no one wants to be around. Someone whose descended into drinking booze, lashing out at everyone all the time, feeling sorry for himself.

**But he doesn't end up that way and we need to know how and why.**

After humbling himself before God and asking Him to create a new heart, **David also asks that the new one is clean because the old one isn't.**

**A heart plagued by bitterness and resentment is dirty and hard as a stone.**

*A person like that struggles to feel Godly emotions like compassion and mercy but freely flows in anger, impatience, and rage.*

**David should be like this but he isn't, because he pleases to God to create, in him, a clean heart.**

Then he asks for this:

and **renew a right spirit** within me.

“Renew a right spirit” is a strange phrase that required some digging.

RENEW/RENEWAL is an ongoing process.

- When you turn on a faucet water flows so we can wash our hands. Clean water is constantly renewing enabling us to get the dirt, grease, pitch, and germs off.
- Electric flows continually powering our stuff, which “uses” it. Therefore every moment power flows its new and our stuff is constantly consuming “fresh” electric.

NEW SPIRIT. When you and I were Saved, Jesus created a new spirit and placed it inside of us. We crucified our old spirit and Jesus gave us a new one that looks just like Him. He also gave us a new heart: His.

Then He's willing to renew our hearts...every day.

DON'T HAVE TO BE MISERABLE. In other words, a Christian doesn't have to live with bitterness and resentment every day. We don't have to be miserable people. God is willing to renew any time we ask Him. Like David, we need to be willing to let our bitterness and resentment go. Our problem is we cling to it like its valuable or is doing us some sort of “good.”

***The old has to go before the new can be received.*** The unforgiveness, anger, bitterness, and resentment we're holding onto distances us to God and others. It's poisoning us like lead or mercury. We need to stop justifying it or waiting around for someone to apologize and change. We need to stop thinking that our stony hearts are protecting us from getting hurt because it doesn't.

“RIGHT SPIRIT”. The next word David uses is “right” and it's a weird word used in a weird way. I'll do my best to explain it. It means to establish something in a firm, secure, solid way. Something that's fixed, won't move, won't budge, be blown away, knocked over, or destroyed.

GH COTTAGE BUILT TO LAST. I remember being a kid and Dad telling me about his cottage at Goodhue Lake. Being the perfectionist he was, he explained that even though it took longer and was more expensive, he built his cottage solid—it was built to last. Firm foundation, good thick walls, etc., he wanted to make sure it would be there for decades to come.

OUR SPIRIT IS STABLE. So the “right spirit” David is asking for is the same. A spirit that’s firmly placed within him, stable, and never going anywhere. Something permanent and secure that can’t be stolen, broken, knocked over, destroyed, or corrupted.

A modern reword of verse 10 might look something like this:

***“God, will You make me a new heart please? The old one is broken and full of too much anger! And would You also make my soul new and durable? I need a fresh start today!”***

Let’s go to verse 11:

**Psalm 51:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

CLUE. Now we get a deeper clue about the Right Spirit David is referring to, and the renewal he needs.

RECEIVED HOLY SPIRIT. When you and I were Saved, not only did our personal spirits get remade into the likeness of Jesus, but we received God the Holy Spirit Who came to live inside of us. Our new spirits and the Holy Spirit are ONE. The firmly established Spirit David is talking about, the One Who will never leave him or get knocked over, is God the Holy Spirit.

ASK FOR REFILLING. While the Holy Spirit Himself doesn’t need renewal, you and I need the renewal of the Holy Spirit. We need His presence, fruit, and gifts regenerated within us every day! Sometimes we Pentecostals and Charismatics will pray that God “refills” us with the Holy Spirit and it’s the same thing. Being filled with the Spirit means more than operating in prophecy or speaking in tongues, it also means more love, joy, patience, humility, and self-control.

GOD’S PRESENCE. In verse 11 David is actually acknowledging that God answered his prayers and gave Him the Holy Ghost. Having the Holy Ghost inside us is to be in God’s presence!

**Psalm 51:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

RESTORE is a word we’re more familiar with, because it means to get back what was lost. Being renewed by the Lord restores the joy we first experience when we got Saved, when we were experiencing God’s love and mercy for perhaps the first time in our lives.

UPHOLD means the Lord is directly supporting us. Imagine being wounded in battle to where you can't walk, and another soldier picks you up and carries you to safety. Or maybe you're so sick you can't even make it to the bathroom, and someone comes along you can lean on to help you there.

WILLING means what you think it does and more. Willing to serve, willing to give...the Lord enables and empowers us to be willing to do His will. I've confessed in past sermons that I'm not a naturally willing person to serve and give, so the "upholding" I need from God is paramount! He makes us willing.

NOBLE. The word has an additional translation that's fascinating: it means princely and noble. In other words, being willing to give and serve is noble to the point of Godly royalty.

So verse 12 might read like this in modern lingo:

***“Lord I want to feel like I did when I first got Saved! Full of love and hope! And happily willing to serve you and others!”***

FRESH START. The daily renewal of God gives us a fresh start every day we open our eyes in the morning and draw breath!

#### **Isaiah 40:28-31 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He **gives power to the faint**, and to **him who has no might he increases strength**.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> **but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**

These famous verses speak of God's renewal and getting a fresh start!

#### **Romans 12:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

We don't have to live with the old mind. It doesn't need to be repaired. We need a new one as long as we give God the old one. Then we'll be transformed!

**Psalm 103:1-5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good so that **your youth is renewed like the eagle's**.

“Youth” doesn’t mean to reverse the aging process, it speaks to having the faith, joy, innocent, and carefree heart of a young child. Before the bad environment, the abuse, poor choices, and betrayals injected fear and anger into us.

*The Lord is willing to renew you and I today, right now. He wants to give us a heart that’s been purified from bitterness and resentment. A mind that’s free from negative thoughts.*

# ALTAR CALL