

SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

“Create in Me a
Clean Heart, O God”
Psalm 51:10-19

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 sustain me with a willing spirit.¹³ Then I
will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners will be converted to
You.¹⁴ ¶ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O
God, the God of my salvation;
Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your
righteousness.¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
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That my mouth may declare Your praise.¹⁶ For
You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I
would give it; You are not pleased with burnt
offering.¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken
spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God,
You will not despise.¹⁸ ¶ By Your favor do
good to Zion; Build the walls of
Jerusalem.¹⁹ Then You will delight in
righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and
whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will
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Introduction

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C. David had sinned against God by his adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah.

Introduction

D. David knew that he needed to have his sin forgiven and cleansed by God, Who alone could cleanse it. He knew that forgiveness comes only through the blood of a sacrifice, meaning that an innocent victim had to die in the sinner's place. The sacrifice pointed forward to the atonement for sin made by Jesus Christ. (51:7)

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F. Because he was a sinner he was certain to sin again and again, unless God helped him.

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H. Pardon and purity! These are the two great needs of every human being, since we are all sinners by deed and by nature.

Introduction

I. Big Idea: When we confess our sins, God will forgive us of our sins and grant us ongoing inner renewal.

I. God Will Sanctify Us (51:10-12)

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B. When God saves you He forgives you of your sins but He also begins the process of sanctification.

C. Regeneration leads to transformation. Sanctification commences at conversion and deepens with discipleship.

I. God Will Sanctify Us (51:10-12)

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E. “And renew a steadfast spirit within me”—David “wants renewed in him a steadfast sort of attitude...he wants to be reliable and steadfast in the choices that he makes” (Alan Ross).

I. God Will Sanctify Us (51:10-12)

F. “Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me”—David was not worried about losing his salvation. He was concerned that God would take away his anointing to serve God powerfully. He feared being set aside in serving God. To be faithful and effective servants in the body of Christ, we need the presence and power of the Holy Spirit of God.

I. God Will Sanctify Us (51:10-12)

G. “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation”—Christians are kept by the power of God (1 Peter 1:5). As Christians we cannot lose our salvation. We can, however, lose the joy of our salvation because of unconfessed sin in our lives. Sin and joy cannot exist in the same heart at the same time. The two are mutually exclusive. “None but God can give back this joy...This joy comes not first, but follows pardon and purity: in such order it is safe, in any other it is vain presumption or idiotic delirium” (Charles Spurgeon).

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H. “And sustain me with a willing spirit”—A willing spirit is the avenue to the joy of one’s salvation. Christians who obey God know joy. Christians who disobey God know only sadness and disappointment.

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I. As we confess our sins and walk with the Lord, He will sanctify us.

II. God Will Speak through Us (51:13-17)

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salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of
Your righteousness.¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, That
my mouth may declare Your praise.¹⁶ For You do
not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;
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Psalms 51:13-17

II. God Will Speak through Us (51:13-17)

**A. David's sin had stung his conscience,
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**A. David's sin had stung his conscience,
stained his mind, stopped up his ears,
sickened his body, soiled his heart, soured his
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**B. The sweet singer of Israel had become the
silent sufferer because of his unconfessed sin.**

II. God Will Speak through Us (51:13-17)

C. “Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You”—Once forgiven, cleansed, and renewed by God, David vowed to teach sinners the ways of God while reaffirming his commitment to God.

II. God Will Speak through Us (51:13-17)

D. He would communicate the truth that God would afflict them for their sin as well as the truth that He will forgive them when they confess their sin. Psalm 32 is a fulfillment of this vow. In Psalm 51:14-17 David showed some of the truths he would teach others.

II. God Will Speak through Us (51:13-17)

E. “Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness”—The weightiness of his sin continued to burden David. He knew he deserved the death penalty for his sins. This sobering reality caused him to cry out to God and confess his sins. Once pardoned, David pledged to sing of God’s righteousness to sinners who needed to seek the same forgiveness.

II. God Will Speak through Us (51:13-17)

**F. “O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise”—“A great sinner pardoned makes a great singer”
(Charles Spurgeon).**

II. God Will Speak through Us (51:13-17)

G. “For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering”—In and of themselves alone, God does not desire mere sacrifice nor does He delight in burnt offerings alone. Outward religious rituals count for nothing apart from a genuine heart of humility and brokenness.

II. God Will Speak through Us (51:13-17)

**H. “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise”—“When the heart mourns for sin, Thou art better pleased than when the bullock bleeds beneath the axe”
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I. A “broken heart” implies deep sorrow. A “contrite heart” is a crushed heart, and a heart crushed is a fragrant heart to God.

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A. “By Your favor do good to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem”—David did not sin in a vacuum. We never do. His sin hurt him and many others. David was in poetic form asking God to overcome what his sin had done not only to himself, but also to his people.

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B. Let us remember that everything we do affects other people, whether for good or evil.

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D. God CAN forgive and sustain His people by His grace.

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E. “Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, in burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then young bulls will be offered on Your altar”—“When we are accepted of God our offerings are accepted” (Charles Spurgeon). Notice we are saved first and then we bring our sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise to God.

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F. God WILL sustain His people.

Conclusion

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B. Do YOU hear God speaking to YOU through His Word today?

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C. How is God commanding YOU to respond to His Word today?

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.