

Clean Hands Pure Hearts



Psalms 24:3-5 (CJB)

Who may go up to the mountain of Adonai? Who can stand in his holy place? Those with clean hands and pure hearts, who don't make vanities the purpose of their lives or swear oaths just to deceive. They will receive a blessing from Adonai and justice from God, who saves them.

When I thought of this topic for a study, I was reminded of King David and his encounter with Bathsheba. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the story, take a moment to read 2 Samuel 11. David sinned, just like the rest of us, but God did not forsake him. During this time when he lusted with his eyes, he should have been out leading his army in battle. One choice can make all the difference in your life, but what happens after the choice or decision has been made?

God is calling us to a relationship with Him, not religion. If we take the religious road, we can go to the altar and walk away believing that we are good to go because "others" have witnessed our act of remorse. Repentance requires a change to take place in the posture of our heart.

The Hebrew term teshuvah (lit. "return") is used to refer to "repentance". This implies that transgression and sin are the natural and inevitable consequence of man's straying from God and His laws, and that it is man's destiny and duty to be with God.



We must truly make a decision to “turn” from our wicked way(s) and “return” to God. Sin causes us to be separated from our Father. I have made decisions that were unfavorable in God’s eyes and needed to come clean before Him with a repentant heart. Sometimes, this does not happen instantly, but can go on for days, weeks, months and even years. Let’s take a look at David when he sinned against God and God’s response to David.

Psalm 32 (Forgiven-Passion Translation)

A poem of insight and instruction, by King David

How happy and fulfilled are those whose rebellion has been forgiven those whose sins are covered by blood. How blessed and relieved are those who have confessed their corruption to God! For he wipes their slates clean and removes hypocrisy from their hearts. Before I confessed my sins, I kept it all inside; my dishonesty devastated my inner life, causing my life to be filled with frustration, irrepressible anguish, and misery. The pain never let up, for your hand of conviction was heavy on my heart. My strength was sapped, my inner life dried up like a spiritual drought within my soul. Pause in his presence-Then I finally admitted to you all my sins, refusing to hide them any longer. I said, “My life-giving God, I will openly acknowledge my evil actions.” And you forgave me! All at once the guilt of my sin washed away and all my pain disappeared! Pause in his presence-This is what I’ve learned through it all: All believers should confess their sins to God; do it every time God has uncovered you in the time of exposing. For if you do this, when sudden storms of life overwhelm, you’ll be kept safe. Lord, you are my secret hiding place, protecting me from these troubles, surrounding me with songs of gladness! Your joyous shouts of rescue release my breakthrough. Pause in his presence-I hear the Lord saying, “I will stay close to you, instructing and guiding you along the pathway for your life. I will advise you along the way and lead you forth with my eyes as your guide. So don’t make it difficult; don’t be stubborn when I take you where you’ve not been before. Don’t make me tug you and pull you along. Just come with me!” So my conclusion is this: Many are the sorrows and frustrations of those who don’t come clean with God. But when you trust in the Lord for forgiveness, his wrap-around love will surround you. So celebrate the goodness of God! He shows this kindness to everyone who is his. Go ahead—shout for joy, all you upright ones who want to please him!



Time elapsed between 2 Samuel 11 & 12 (at least nine months). David was aware that what he had done (sleeping with another man's wife, impregnating her and killing her husband), but the extremity of his sin had not been made known up to this point. Finally, God sends Natan to speak to David from a God perspective. Let's read...

2 Samuel 12 Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)

Adonai sent Natan to David. He came and said to him, "In a certain city there were two men, one rich, the other poor. The rich man had vast flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing, except for one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and reared. It had grown up with him and his children; it ate from his plate, drank from his cup, lay on his chest — it was like a daughter to him. One day a traveler visited the rich man, and instead of picking an animal from his own flock or herd to cook for his visitor, he took the poor man's lamb and cooked it for the man who had come to him." David exploded with anger against the man and said to Natan, "As Adonai lives, the man who did this deserves to die! For doing such a thing, he has to pay back four times the value of the lamb — and also because he had no pity." Natan said to David, ***"You are the man."***

"Here is what Adonai, the God of Isra'el says: **I anointed you** king over Isra'el. **I rescued you** from the power of Sha'ul. **I gave you** your master's house and your master's wives to embrace. **I gave you** the house of Isra'el and the house of Y'hudah. And if that had been too little, **I would have added to you a lot more.**

"So why have you shown such contempt for the word of Adonai and done what **I see as evil? You murdered Uriyah the Hitti with the sword and taken his wife as your own wife; you put him to death with the sword of the people of 'Amon. Now therefore,** the sword will never leave your house — because you have shown contempt for me and taken the wife of Uriyah the Hitti as your own wife. Here is what Adonai says: 'I will generate evil against you out of your own household. I will take your wives before your very eyes and give them to your neighbor; he will go to bed with your wives, and everyone will know about it. For you did it secretly, but I will do this before all Isra'el in broad daylight.'"

David said to Natan, **"I have sinned against Adonai."**



Natan said to David, **“Adonai also has taken away your sin. You will not die. *However, because by this act you have so greatly blasphemed Adonai, the child born to you must die.*”** 15 Then Natan returned to his house. Adonai struck the child that Uriyah’s wife had borne to David, and it became very ill.

Many times when we sin, we may not realize that we have sinned against God when there is no immediate consequence. We may not have a prophet speak to us, but we do have the Holy Spirit, and He is the One who convicts us of sin. When this happens, we must not harden our heart through pride.

Hebrews 4:7

For God still has ordained a day for us to enter into called “Today.” For it was long afterwards that God repeated it in David’s words, “If only today you would listen to his voice and **do not harden your hearts!**”

As we have read, there was a severe consequence from David’s sin that impacted his entire household and even to the point that his son’s life would be required. Thank God we have the Blood of His Only Begotten Son, Yeshua, to cover our sin; although, this does not give us free reign to continue in our sinful behavior.

As a Christian, I can think of various ways in which we sin; such as, gossip, jealousy, disobedience, envy, lust, sexual sin of all kind, pride, self-righteousness just to name a few... We must be careful to say that it will “never” happen to us. If you think these temptations will never allure you, you deceive yourself. It truly takes a humble heart to be a pure heart. Are you spending time on social media when you should be spending it with God? God created you “unique” which means there is not another you! He called you with a specific calling and placed you strategically to be part of His Body.

We cannot have clean hands unless we humble our hearts and walk being led by the Spirit. Do not seek the gifts, but seek the Giver of the gifts. When the Holy Spirit resides within our hearts, and we submit to His leading, we can have the following evidence of the “fruit” in our daily life:

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: *joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life*



full of virtue, faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit. Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless.

As we draw near to God, the Holy Spirit will purify our heart. It takes “willingness” on our part.

Let’s look at David response after Natan’s rebuke in Psalms 51.

Psalm 51 -Pardon and Purity (Passion Translation)

For the Pure and Shining One

A prayer of confession when the prophet Nathan exposed King David’s adultery with Bathsheba

David’s Confession

God, give me mercy from your fountain of forgiveness! I know your abundant love is enough to wash away my guilt. Because your compassion is so great, take away this shameful guilt of sin. Forgive the full extent of my rebellious ways, and erase this deep stain on my conscience. For I’m so ashamed. I feel such pain and anguish within me. I can’t get away from the sting of my sin against you, Lord! Everything I did, I did right in front of you, for you saw it all. Against you, and you above all, have I sinned. Everything you say to me is infallibly true and your judgment conquers me. Lord, I have been a sinner from birth, from the moment my mother conceived me. I know that you delight to set your truth deep in my spirit. So come into the hidden places of my heart and teach me wisdom.

David’s Cleansing

Purify my conscience! Make this leper clean again! Wash me in your love until I am pure in heart. Satisfy me in your sweetness, and my song of joy will return. The places within me you have crushed will rejoice in your healing touch. Hide my sins from your face; erase all my guilt by your saving grace. Create a new, clean heart within me. Fill me with pure thoughts and holy desires, ready to please you. May you never reject me! May you never take from me your sacred Spirit!



David's Consecration

Let my passion for life be restored, tasting joy in every breakthrough you bring to me. Hold me close to you with a willing spirit that obeys whatever you say. Then I can show to other guilty ones how loving and merciful you are. They will find their way back home to you, knowing that you will forgive them. O God, my saving God, deliver me fully from every sin, even the sin that brought bloodguilt. Then my heart will once again be thrilled to sing the passionate songs of joy and deliverance! Lord God, unlock my heart, unlock my lips, and I will overcome with my joyous praise! For the source of your pleasure is not in my performance or the sacrifices I might offer to you. The fountain of your pleasure is found in the sacrifice of my shattered heart before you. You will not despise my tenderness as I humbly bow down at your feet. Because you favor Zion, do what is good for her. Be the protecting wall around Jerusalem. And when we are fully restored, you will rejoice and take delight in every offering of our lives as we bring our sacrifices of righteousness before you in love!

Is there sin in your life that you need to bring before the Father's throne? He is faithful to forgive you! Do not allow your pride to keep you distanced from Him because Yeshua (Jesus) paid the price for you to be reconciled to your heavenly Father. Allow the Holy Spirit to wash over your heart to purify it once you "turn" and "return" to your rightful place as a child of God. Pray through Psalm 51 and sincerely ask the Holy Spirit to remove the appetite for anything that is not pleasing to Him.

Listen to this song: [Sails by Pat Barrett](#) and [This Love by Housefires](#)