

A Repentant Heart (part 2)

Psalm 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”

Last lesson, we began the study of a repentant heart through the example of David’s sin and prayer for repentance.

We pick up on David’s prayer for change.

V. The prayer for change.

David then sought change in his life. Having a repentant heart means that you are seeking a change of direction. You once were walking in sin, now you choose to walk in God’s righteousness.

There must be a desire for change in your life before you can have a repentant heart. If you want to continue to walk in sin after your prayer for change, then God will not respond to your prayer. David desired change.

- Psalm 51:10-11, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”
- God loves us enough that He doesn’t leave us as we are when we come to Him. He desires to change us and create us again.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
- Galatians 6:15, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”

A new beginning in God begins with a prayer for change.

VI. Prayer for restoration.

If we go back and look at the Garden of Eden, the relationship between mankind and God was severed through his sin. Since sin separates us from God, there is a need for restoration. This is an important step in our approach to God.

- Psalm 51:12-13 “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”
- 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.”
- God’s desire is restore His creation back to a place they can fellowship with Him again.
- He will hear our prayer as a sinner if it is a prayer of repentance. If you will humble yourself, pray, seek the Lord with all your heart and then make a decision to turn away from sin; then He will hear you.

- Again to remind us of the need for restoration, Psalm 66:18 says, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:”

We are continuing to turn our focus toward God with a prayer of restoration.

Jesus needs to bring us into a place where He can communicate with us. Once a prayer for cleansing has taken place and a desire for change is in place, then the prayer for restoration prepares us for the change in our lives.

VII. Prayer for deliverance.

The prayer for deliverance takes us into another level of prayer. You are now seeking a final change in your life.

- Psalm 51:14 “Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.”
- David is now asking for a final cleansing of his soul and heart.

To help explain this a little more, let us refer to the story of the ten lepers in Luke 17:12-19, “And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.”

- Leprosy is a type of sin in the Bible. So this story gives us a good picture of deliverance from sin.
- These ten men had the disease of leprosy and were isolated from normal relationships. (Similar to sin in the life of mankind.)
- They cried unto God for a healing or cleansing. (Similar to the prayer of a sinner toward.)
- They desired to be clean and restore their relationships with heir families and friends. (Similar to a sinner’s desire to restore the relationship he has lost with God.)
- God heard their prayer for healing and cleansed them. (Similar to God’s forgiveness of a sinner.)
- Nine of them were satisfied with a cleansing, but there was one that wanted more. (Similar to a desire for complete change.)
- He came back and worshipped Jesus and he was made whole. (Similar to being delivered from sin.)
- Cleansing means “to make clean, or purify”
- Whole means “to save, to deliver, to preserve.”

Deliverance from something means that your desire for that thing has been removed and replaced with another desire. You can be cleansed or purified, but still not be delivered.

Asking for deliverance means that you are finishing that complete turnaround toward God. He will take away the desire for sin and replace it with a desire to be righteous.

- The one leper would never again have to worry about the disease of leprosy. He was delivered. Unless he came into contact with it again.
- We will never have to worry about sin in our lives again, unless we come into contact with sin after our deliverance.

Deliverance is a very important step in your approach to a New Beginning!

VIII. Prayer of praise.

David is now entering the last step of his prayer session. He ends it in a prayer of praise.

- Psalm 51:15-19 “O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.”
- A prayer of praise turns your complete focus upon God. You have completed your turnaround.

David had also learned another valuable asset in his life: praising God. Out of the 248 times the word “praise” is used in the Bible, the book of Psalms uses it 160. Two-thirds of praise is found in Psalms.

- No wonder Acts 13:22 calls David “a man after (God’s) own heart.”
- He was a man quick to repent.
- He was also a man quick to praise God.
- Psalm 7:17 “I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.”
- Psalm 28:7 “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.”
- Psalm 34:1 “...I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

It is important to remember that a prayer of praise will turn your attention toward God and away from your sin situation. When you can focus upon Him, you are preparing your heart and mind for change.

Approaching God for Forgiveness

In conclusion of this lesson, we need to visit briefly upon how to approach the God of all righteousness and creation.

David included in his prayer in verse 17, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” If we are truly sorry for our sins, there will be a brokenness of heart and spirit.

- Psalm 9:12 “...he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.”

- Psalm 10:17 "LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:"
- Isaiah 57:15 "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

God will respond to a person willing to humble themselves in His presence. One way to prove our humbleness is to kneel. Kneeling shows we are submitting to a higher authority. We are surrendering to someone greater in power.

- 1 Kings 8:54 "And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven."
- Psalm 95:6 "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."
- Daniel 6:10 "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."
- In the New Testament, we find that people who received great things from Jesus, came and kneeled before Him.

Jesus is the King of all kings and deserves our respect; but He truly desires our brokenness. If you approach Him with a broken heart and willing spirit, He will not turn you away.

- It is for this reason a normal approach to Jesus is to kneel before Him and seek His forgiveness.

Our next study will cover the subject of forgiveness.