



PSALMS

Elements Class: Psalm 51
Choir Room: Sunday, June 12th 10:45am

This Psalm has a threefold emphasis.





The first emphasis
is on David's
humble admittance
of his sin and failure
to obey God.



The second emphasis
is on David's
heavenly appeal
for God to intervene.



The third emphasis
is on David's
holy ambition
to turn his rebellion
into revival!

**Let's take a moment to examine each
of these separately.**

David's **humble admittance**
of his sin and failure to obey God.



In this section of the Psalm
David repeatedly & emphatically
professes his sin to God.

Wash away all *my iniquity*
and cleanse me from *my sin.* (v2)

For I know *my transgressions*,
and *my sin* is always before me. (v3)

Against you, you only, have ***I sinned***
and ***done what is evil*** in your sight;

(v4)

Surely *I was sinful* at birth,
I was sinful from the time my
mother conceived me. (v5)

8 times in 4 verses, in pairs of two,
David confesses his sinfulness to God.



David makes no attempt to hide, cover, compartmentalize or justify his sin. He readily admits that he was wrong, very wrong.

**In fact, twice over, again in a pair,
he defends God's condemnation
of his sin...**

Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so ***you are right in your verdict***
and ***justified when you judge.*** (v4)

**David understands that his sin is
against God and that God is right
and just in calling him into
account for it!**

David understood the truth behind Hebrews 4:13

*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight.
Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the
eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

David understood the truth behind 1 John 1:8-10

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

APPLY NOW

1. *When we have sinned and the Lord convicts us of it... we must readily admit it to him. He already knows it, there is no point in denying the truth.*

APPLY NOW

- 2. We must overcome the habit of making excuses for our sin, or attempting to defend or justify our actions.*

APPLY NOW

3. *We must not blame God or accuse God of seeing things inaccurately when he convicts us. We must believe that he is always correct, right and just.*

**David's heavenly appeal
for God to intervene.**



In this section of the Psalm
David petitions God to step into
his situation and make everything
right again.

In this Psalm
David asks God to act
18 different times.

In this section David makes
10 requests (5 pairs in 5 verses)
**regarding what he needs God to do
in relation to his problem with sin.**

**In the next section David will
make the other 8 requests
regarding what he needs God to
do in relation to his ability to be
pleasing to God.**

(1) Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
(2) blot out my transgressions. (v1)

(3) Wash away all my iniquity
and ***(4) cleanse me*** from my sin. (v2)

(5) *Cleanse me* with hyssop, and I will be clean; **(6) *wash me***, and I will be whiter than snow. (v7)

(7) *Hide your face* from my sins
and **(8) *blot out*** all my iniquity. (v9)

(9) Do not cast me from your presence
or (10) take your Holy Spirit from me.

(v11)

David's major request is that God would cleanse him and wash him from the stain of sin.

(sanctify)

His second major request is that God would blot out or remove his sin from the records.

(forgive, acquit)

His third request is that God would not disqualify him from the position of King and the ministry as mediator.

(cast me from, take your Spirit)

David was not asking that God would not remove his salvation or his Spirit from him in a saving way.

The Spirit was 'poured out' in a 'limited way' in the Old Testament for service/ministry. (1 Sam 16:3)

Saul was given the Spirit of God at the beginning of his kingship (1 Sam 10:10) and then was removed from him after his sin and failure to repent (1 Sam 16:14).

APPLY NOW

1. *Sin, no matter how small it may be, can never be taken care of **on our own**. We need God to do something to make things right again.*

APPLY NOW

2. *We must realize that sin will always limit our effectiveness in ministry, and our ability to be a godly Dad, Mom, Husband or Wife... which is why we must ask God to deal with it immediately.*

APPLY NOW

3. We must be confident that when we **confess** our sins; God will forgive us and **cleanse** us. He will not remove his salvation from a believer, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who is a deposit of a guarantee. (No matter what the enemy tries to tell you).

**David's holy ambition
to turn his rebellion into revival!**



In this section of the Psalm
David identifies the **problem**
and seeks to turn it into
God **pleasing** action.

**In this section David will make
8 requests (4 pairs in 4 verses)
regarding what he needs God to
do in relation to his ability to be
pleasing to God.**

- (1) Let me hear joy and gladness;**
(2) let the bones you have crushed
rejoice. (v8)

(3) Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and **(4) renew a steadfast spirit** within
me. (v10)

(5) Restore to me the joy of your
salvation and *(6) grant me a willing*
spirit, to sustain me. (v12)

(7) Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. ***(8) Open my lips***, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

(v14-15)

David realizes that his sin was due in great part to the fact that he had lost something along the way...

First, David says that he had lost **the joy of his salvation**. And he needs it restored if he is to have victory over sin and be obedient.

Second, David says that his spirit or will (feeling/thinking/acting capacity) (*not Holy Spirit*) has **lost a willingness or desire to do what is right.**

Third, David says that the weight of his sin (guilt, punishment) has been so heavy that it has **removed the motivation for doing right.**

David is admitting that these things had been weak or damaged and they are affecting his ability to obey. And if he is going to succeed in the future **he needs God's grace to help him correct the problems.**

First, David needs God to bring back
to mind the understanding and
feeling of **the joy of his salvation.**

David knew that his heart & actions would pursue what he felt was the greatest joy...and he had forgotten that pleasing God etc. was the highest joy in all the universe.

(Bathsheba had become his joy).

Second, David needed God to **give him a willingness or desire to do what is right.** (See John 15:5)

David knew that if left to himself and his flesh...you would always choose wrongly.

***For it is God who works in you to will and to act
in order to fulfill his good purpose.***

(Phil 2:13 NIV)

***For God is working in you, giving you the desire
and the power to do what pleases him. (NLT)***

Third, David needed God to

lighten or remove the punishment for his sin, because the weight of it was crushing his motivation for doing right.

**In other words, he kept thinking
'what is the point in doing right...my
punishment is always before
me...why not sin all the more...'**

Finally, David says that if these requests are granted by God...he will be able to minister again...

Then ***I will teach transgressors your ways,***
so that sinners will turn back to you. (13)

...***my tongue will sing of your righteousness.***
Open my lips, Lord, and ***my mouth will declare***
your praise. (14b-15)

APPLY NOW

- 1. We must realize that sin is always a preferring of something else over God. The root of sin is always finding more joy, pleasure & satisfaction in something other than God and his will & instruction etc.*

APPLY NOW

2. *When the ‘joy of our salvation’ is dwindling we will lack kindling for obedience. A lack of joy in God is the precursor to pursuing joy in other, sinful, things.*

APPLY NOW

3. A lack of joy in God, sinful behavior and then unconfessed or unaddressed sin will always lead to a lack in ministry results. If we want to ‘teach transgressors’ and ‘declare his praises’ we must deal with sin the way David does.