

# When God's Child Sins

6.2.19

**Psalm 51 NIV (A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.)** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. <sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. <sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. <sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. <sup>18</sup> May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

## I. The possibility of sin in the life of a Christian

A. There is a trend today saying that it is counter-productive to see ourselves as capable of sinning. Our focus, they say, should be upon our righteousness. As with most error, there is an element of truth. We are to focus on the righteousness of Christ within us, but we dare not do so to the exclusion of the awareness of sin's possibility.

B. Think of four very real dynamics

1. We are forgiven!

a. **Colossians 2:13 ESV** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

2. Our lives are changed!

a. **2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

3. But we can still fall into sin.

a. **1 John 1:8-10 NASB** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to

forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

4. Though we fall, His grace and mercy cover us and His Blood cleanses us!
  - a. **1 John 2:1-2 NASB** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup> and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.
  - b. **1 John 1:6-7 NASB** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; <sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

C. John's perspective:

1. Don't sin.
  - a. "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin." **1 John 2:1 NIV**
2. If you do sin, repent.
  - a. "But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." **1 John 2:1-2**
3. Walk away from the sin.
  - a. "But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure." **1 John 3:2-3 NIV**
  - b. "If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." **1 John 1:6-7 NIV**
4. Recognize the potential for sin.
  - a. "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." **1 John 1:8 NIV**
5. Walk in holiness, for sin is no longer the DNA of the Christian.

- a. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." **1 John 1:9 NIV**
6. To say (1) "I have no sin" is a lie. To say (2) "My failures have no bearing on my righteousness" is also a lie.
- a. **1 John 2:4-6 NIV** "Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."
  - b. **1 John 3:4-6 NIV** "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him."
7. Yet we must understand that we are both **SAVED** and **KEPT** by the Grace of God.

## II. What happens when God's Child sins?

### A. Sin makes you dirty in your soul. (verses 2, 3)

- 1. "Wash me, cleanse me, for I admit my transgression, and my sin is ever before me."
- 2. The need for spiritual foot-washing

### B. Sin takes control of your thinking. (verse 3)

- 1. "My sin is ever before me."
- 2. Leonard Ravenhill, "My sin marched around my bed all night long."
- 3. Strongholds of guilt are created.

### C. Sin molests your conscience. (verse 4)

- 1. "Against you and you only have I sinned."
- 2. Can be corrupted or defiled, it can even be killed, but a wise person knows to cherish their conscience like a fine watch.

D. Sin destroys your joy. (verses 8, 12)

1. "Restore the joy of my salvation."
2. "Make me to hear joy and gladness again."
3. When you encounter an angry Christian, it is a near certainty that some sin has robbed them of joy.
4. They may be sins of commission or sins of omission, but either one will do the trick.

E. Sin can even cause illness. (verse 8)

1. Sin has the effect of crushing the bones.
2. 1 Corinthians 11:30 and the Lord's Supper
3. A merry heart does good like a medicine, but David was miserable!

F. Sin sours the Spirit with Judgmentalism. (verse 10)

1. "Create in me a clean heart, and renew a proper spirit within me."
2. "The one who did this shall die!" – That man stole a man's sheep, but David stole a man's wife!
3. "Five brooms in the closet!"

G. Sin seals your lips. (verses 12-19)

1. Praise dried up.
2. No sinners were saved.

### III. How Do You Come Back?

A. Find the place of confidence. (verses 1, 2)

1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

B. Discover the freeing, cleansing power of confession. (verses 3, 4)

1. “For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, and only you only, have I sinned, and done this evil in your sight, that you will be justified when you speak, and be clear when you pass judgment” The Bible says, in 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us”—hallelujah—“from all unrighteousness.” — No alibis!

C. Allow God to bring cleansing. (verses 2, 7)

1. “Wash me thoroughly.”
2. “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”
3. So, He saves us from the penalty for sin in the past.
4. He saves us from the power of sin in the present.
5. He saves us from the possibility and presence of sin in the future.

**IV. From: The Apostle: The Life of Paul, by John Pollock, pages 34-37.**

“Who are You, Lord? He was using a mode of address that might mean simply “Your honor.” “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you, this kicking against the goad.” Then Paul knew. In a second that seemed an eternity, he saw the wounds in Jesus’ hands and feet, saw the face, and knew he had seen the Lord, that He was alive, as Stephen and the others had said, and that He loved not only those whom Paul persecuted but also Paul himself: “It is hard for you to kick against the goad.” Not one word of reproach. Paul had never admitted to himself that he had felt pricks of a goad as he raged against Stephen and his disciples. But now, instantaneously, he was shatteringly aware that he had been fighting Jesus—and fighting himself, his conscience, his powerlessness, the darkness and chaos in his own soul. God hovered over this chaos and brought him to the moment of new creation. It wanted only his “Yes.” Paul broke. He was trembling and in no state to weigh the pros and cons of changing sides. He only knew that he had heard a voice and had seen the Lord and that nothing mattered but to find and obey His will. “What shall I do, Lord.” He used the same ascription as before, but all the obedience and worship and love in heaven and earth went into that one word, “Lord.”