

MOVING BEYOND MISTAKES

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SCRIPTURE

Have mercy on me, O God, because of Your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. ² Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³ For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. ⁴ Against You, and You alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in Your sight. You will be proved right in what You say, and Your judgment against me is just. ⁵ For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. ⁶ But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. ⁷ Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Oh, give me back my joy again; You have broken me—now let me rejoice. ⁹ Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not banish me from Your presence, and don't take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and make me willing to obey You. ¹³ Then I will teach Your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. ¹⁴ Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of Your forgiveness. ¹⁵ Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise You. ¹⁶ You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifice You desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God. ¹⁸ Look with favor on Zion and help her; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then You will be pleased with sacrifices offered in the right spirit—with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings. Then bulls will again be sacrificed on Your altar. Psalm 51 NLT

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! ² Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! ³ When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. ⁴ Day and night Your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. ⁵ Finally, I confessed all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Psalm 32:1-5 NLT

INTRODUCTION

Original Sin: Adam's sin not only affected him but all humanity for all of history. The nature of sin is to destroy.

Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. James 1:14-15 NLT

CAUTIONS

David finds himself not doing what he should be doing.

David finds himself at the height of success.

David finds himself with a reputation that precedes him.

David finds himself entertaining sin.

CONSEQUENCES

The conviction of Christ works to bring us back, while the shame of sin works to keep us away.

God allows inner turmoil.

God allows joylessness.

God allows a self-righteous spirit.

God allows collateral damage.

"Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go, keep you longer than you wanted to stay, and cost you more than you wanted to pay."

CONFESSION

Confession of Faith: This *original* confession frees me from the eternal consequences of sin.

...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9, ESV

Confession of Failure: This *ongoing* confession frees me from the earthly congestion of sin.

"...and forgive us our sins..." Luke 11:4 ESV

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16
NLT

Father Walter Adams said that C.S. Lewis called "the experience [of confession] a tonic to his soul."

David reminds himself of God's goodness.

David realigns his perspective of sin with God's perspective.

The sin was not only against himself, Bathsheba, Uriah, the child, and the kingdom, but also against God Himself.

David remembers that he could never earn God's grace.

God our Savior showed us how good and kind he is. He saved us because of his mercy, and not because of any good things that we have done. Titus 3:4

David cries out for God's mercy, cleansing, and a renewed spirit.

There is a stark difference between being remorseful and being repentant.

David receives his consequence without blaming the Lord.

CELEBRATION

David uses his giftings again.

David gains new perspective on inner and outer cleanliness.

David uses his failure to help others.

David looks to the future.

CLOSE

After sin, I should call out for mercy, cleansing, and a steadfast spirit.

After sin, I should confess to God.

Nothing you confess will make Him love you less.

"We defeat sin by confessing it to death." Ray Ortlund

After sin, I should confess to others.

I should confess to others when I sin.

"Is this person trustworthy?"

I should confess to others when I sin against them.

"Am I taking complete ownership of the offense?"

I should confess to others when I hold something against them.

"Can I work through this with the Lord and release the offense?"

"Am I over reacting?"

"Do I know the whole story?"

"Am I hoping for reconciliation or revenge?"

"Should I meet with them, make a phone call, write a letter, etc.?"

"Have I reviewed Matthew 18?"

After sin, I should contend for complete reconciliation.

After sin, I should continue on in the faith.

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on.
Philippians 3:13 NIV

If we confess our sins to God, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9 NLT

He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. Psalm 103:12 NLT

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1 ESV

A Platform and Loose Ends

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. Hebrews 12:1 NIV