

## "Psalm 51: Confession and Cleansing" Psalm 51

It is NEVER too late to seek forgiveness and experience the restoration of our fellowship with God!

### Psalms Bible Study: Evening

- Week 1 Intro & Psalm 6
- Week 2 Psalm 19
- Week 3 Psalm 30
- Week 4 Psalm 51**
- Week 5 Psalm 73

### **Psalm 51: A Psalm of Confession**

- One of six "Penitential Psalms" where the theme is the confession of sin.
- Context: the superscription mentions, "A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him after he had gone into Bathsheba.
- The background of Psalm 51 is found in 2 Samuel 11-12. Also see Psalm 32.

### **Psalm 51: Message**

Written to capture the intensity of David's pain when he realized that his sin has been uncovered and he has yet to experience God's abundant forgiveness.

### **Psalm 51: Big Idea**

It is NEVER too late to seek forgiveness and experience the restoration of our fellowship with God!

### **Psalm 51**

- Superscription
- Prayer: God I Need You! (1-2)
- Confession: Getting Real (3-6)
- Petition: Getting Right (7-12)
- Vow: Going On (13-19)

### **Table Discussion**

- Read Psalm 51.
- Summarize the historical background of Psalm 51. See 2 Samuel 11-12.
- Why was David vulnerable to temptation?

### **David's crumbling morality...**

- David realized that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people in Israel. Meanwhile David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after He

came from Hebron; and more sons and daughters were born to David. (2 Samuel 5:12-13)

- Deuteronomy 17:14-17

### **Understanding Temptation**

- Times of leisure
- No accountability
- Neglected Integrity; Disobedience

### **Psalm 51 Questions**

1. What does David seem to be doing in verses 1-2? In verses 3-6?
2. To what two attributes of God does David appeal in verses 1-2? What does each of these words really mean?
  - Lovingkindness (*chesed*): loyal, covenant love between the LORD and His people.
  - Compassion: intimate feeling mother has from her own womb.
3. In verses 1-6 list all of the occurrences and terms David uses to describe his sin.
  - My transgressions: military term to describe rebellion against nations and kings. To draw a line in the sand and transgress (step over) the line.
  - My iniquity: a "going astray from the Law.
  - My sin: in Judges, stone-slingers "missed the mark" of perfection.

4. Explain David's point in v. 4.

How can he say this after committing adultery against Uriah and then killing him?

5. What does David mean in v. 5? Read Romans 5:12-19 for help.
6. What does David seem to be requesting in verses 7-12?
7. What verbs does David employ to describe his request in verses 7-12?
8. What would it have meant for God to cast David from his presence or take from David the Holy Spirit (v. 11)?

Is this possible for Christians today (Eph. 1:13-14; Romans 8:35-39)?

9. In one succinct phrase, what is David saying to God in verses 13-19?

### **Psalm 51 – Sin's Consequences**

- Death of David & Bathsheba's son
- Amnon rapes Tamar
- Absalom kills Amnon (3 years later)

- Absalom wins people over; leads a revolt against David
- Civil war breaks out
- Absalom killed- hung by his hair; Joab kills him

### **Psalm 51 – Applications**

- See pp. 72-73.
- What is your main takeaway from this passage?
- What is God leading you to DO as a result of your study of Psalm 51?
- Who will hold you accountable?
- See Handout: Resources for Purity.

# Resources for Purity

Updated July 2010

Here are a few resources for sexual addictions and especially pornography. This list is not exhaustive and prices and features may have changed since this list was last updated. Please remember that no logging or filtering program is perfect, so it is important to combine these tools with an open and honest accountability relationship.

## Books:

- ***Every Man's Battle***, by Stephen Arterburn
- ***Every Young Man's Battle***, by Stephen Arterburn (for teenagers)
- ***Every Woman's Battle***, by Shannon Ethridge

**BOTH LOGGING AND FILTERING SOFTWARE:** These programs do two things, (1) they filter inappropriate material and (2) they log the sites you visit and share this log with your accountability partner(s).

- [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com) (very good accountability program that is virtually undefeatable; sends your weekly or bi-weekly accountability report from their corporate server to your accountability partner(s); endorsed by Promise Keepers; they have a new filter program as well that costs a bit extra; costs around \$85 per year just for the logging program, but price changes depending on the options you choose)
- [www.hedgebuilders.com](http://www.hedgebuilders.com) (good filtering software for ~\$70 per year; it has a so-so logging feature)

## LOGGING ONLY SOFTWARE:

- [www.x3watch.com](http://www.x3watch.com) (similar to covenant eyes but less extensive coverage and creates your log on your own computer rather than on an independent server; choose between a free version or a more sophisticated version that runs at \$19; unlike covenant eyes, there is no annual fee)

## CELL PHONE FILTERS:

- [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com) (free for users of CE internet software, for Windows Mobile 6 cell phones & PDAs; software for iPhone)
- [www.x3watch.com](http://www.x3watch.com) (free software for iPhone and iPod touch)

## COUNSELING & ADDICTION HELP:

- [www.x3pure.com](http://www.x3pure.com) (best online counseling program, \$99 for the entire 30-day online course. The leader's name is Joe Dallas. They have separate versions for single and married guys.)
- [www.settingcaptivesfree.com](http://www.settingcaptivesfree.com) (a 60 day online program for overcoming pornography issues. But note: they believe that anyone habitually involved in sexual immorality or homosexuality cannot be a Christian.)
- <http://www.purelifeministries.org> (a ministry for those struggling with sexual sin; helpful resources and materials for individuals and ministries)
- <http://www.exodus-international.org> (a ministry for those struggling with homosexuality; web site includes articles, recommended counselors, meeting locations, and other resources.)
- **Grace Celebrate Recovery Men's Group**- Meets Tuesday nights @ 6:30 PM at Grace Southwood. Info at: <http://www.grace-bible.org/ministries/Adult/celebraterecovery.aspx>