

**Agape House of Worship**  
**Bible Study - Wednesday July 23rd 2025**

**Study Series: A Man After God's Own Heart**  
**Scripture: Psalm 51**

**Part 11: David's Repentance**  
**Teacher: Pastor Paul Akoh**

*"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." vs.1-2 NIV.*

This Psalm is the consequence of the events of 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12. It provides some tremendous insights into David's spiritual recovery from a place of arrogance and callousness towards God's voice. It took the prophetic ministry of Nathan to break David's slide into the sin of adultery and murder. Once he came back to his senses, he was heartbroken and engaged in what any true child of God would do: repent. David still went ahead to become the greatest king of Israel by the grace of God but he lived with some avoidable consequences of sin.

### **Repentance**

What is repentance? It is not just remorse (for what you did that now affects others) or regret - a feeling of sadness for what happened. To repent is a profound spiritual turning point involving a change of mind and heart, leading to a departure from sin and a turning towards God - Acts 3:19. Repentance is the only answer to our rebellion against God - Isa.53:6. It is the sinner's **initial** means of conversion and deliverance from God's wrath over sin (Acts 3:19) and the believer's **continuous** tool of repairing fellowship with God whenever sin is committed - 1 John 1:6-10.

### **Signs of Genuine Repentance**

The first sign of true repentance is accepting responsibility. The only way we can find freedom from guilt through the gospel is by **repentance** - Matthew 4:17. It includes the following steps:

1. Verbal exposition or confession of hidden things to God - Prov.28:13. Satan is only powerful against us if there are hidden things still covered in our lives. Psalm 51:3-4.
2. Renouncing evil deeds - affiliations with the devil, the flesh and the world. v. 14.
3. Changed behaviour - Matthew 3:8 - stop doing what you used to do contrary to God's word - e.g consultation with soothsayers, etc. God is a jealous God; He cannot share you with another god. v.10-12

Repentance is always towards God - Acts 20:21; Repentance includes repenting of seemingly good things we have done to impress God - Isa.64:6.

*Question: Why do we need to keep repenting from sin after salvation?*

### **God's Mercy**

God's mercy is God's goodness toward those in misery and distress - Exodus 34:6; Heb.4:16. It is an extension of God's goodness beyond His justice, always constant and fresh (Lamentation 3:22-23). When David was confronted with his sin, he immediately realized that his only option was to plead for God's mercy - Psalm 51:1-2 - even though the king had pronounced his own judgment (2 Samuel 12:5-6). God shows us His compassion and forgiveness though we deserve to be punished for our sins - Psalm 103:8-11; *"So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you."* James 2:12-13 NLT.

## God's Forgiveness

*"Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die." 2 Samuel 12:13 NIV.*

The Uriah-Bathsheba-David saga had gone on for more than nine months. Uriah was buried and Bathsheba was about nine months pregnant when David finally confessed to the Lord and repented. The passing of time and all the cover-ups couldn't cover David's sin. Sin defiles and corrupts your soul - v.5;7. Believers are miserable in sin until confession is made and God's forgiveness is received. *"When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer."* Psalm 32:3-4 NIV. But whenever 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.

- God still loves us even when we fall into sin and forgives us completely when we genuinely repent of our sins. He forgives and forgives completely - *"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."* Isa.43:25 NIV.
- Even though David was forgiven, he still suffered severe physical consequences for his sin: 1. The first child he had by Bathsheba died 2. For killing Uriah, *"...the sword will never depart from your house."* 3. Open defilement of David's wives by one of his own sons - 2 Sam.12:10-12. Out of His love and mercy, God forgives our sins but we may have to live with the natural consequences all our lives.

*Question: If God is merciful, loving and graciously forgives sin, why does He allow natural consequences of our sinful acts?*

**Conclusion:** God is speaking clearly to believers in every generation that a man after His heart is not necessarily sinless but recognizes sin as what it is - a treasonable felony against God (Eze.18:4); only a heartfelt turning away from sin and towards God absolves us of guilt and restores fellowship with our Maker. Romans 6:23. David understands that when a believer is forgiven, cleansed, and renewed by God, that life will inevitably produce the fruit of worship and ministry to others (Psalm 51:13). Our greatest contribution as members of the family of God is to stop excusing our sins, expose our lives to God and with sincere hearts, sing along with David: *"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. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."* Psalm 51:10-12 KJV.