

## Psalm 51

### Rekindle the Hope

If you want to be used of God greatly, then you will constantly be responsive to his direction in your life, no matter the circumstances, no matter if you caused the mess you are in or did not cause it, or if everything is going smoothly. A life that is used by God has surrendered themselves to perform his will.

God right now in every situation and circumstance in your life is forming you into an image that delights himself (Romans 8:28). Do you believe this? Are you responding to this? The reason, it seems, that God does this is so that the world will be filled with His glory. Think about this for just a moment and be amazed: God could have made his glory known in many different ways but he has so chosen to take us, his creatures that were made for worship and use us to declare to the world the glory of the Lord. When we go outside and see the beauty of a sunrise or the first winter snow we think to ourselves as believers, the heavens are declaring the glory of the Lord. You ask one who does not know the Lord what they see when they see a sunrise and their answer could be anything. My point is that out of all that God could have done to declare his glory, he uses you and I, our lives to be living breathing testimonies of his goodness.

We are told to let our light shine before men, to live this mortal life in light of eternity. God's desire for us is to grow and in our growing show the world Jesus saves. We don't want to be stagnant or stunted, nor do we want to be nominal, we want to live a significant life for our great God and King. We don't want to just go through the motions, we want the motions to go through us and change us, to fashion move us into further effectiveness for him.

But what happens when our life becomes hindered? What happens when the cares of this world and the affections of this world begin to creep in our hearts and try to choke the life out of us? In each and every situation, we need to remember that God is our hope. We need to remember that when sin sets in our lives and tries to choke the life out of us that we serve a saving God who is jealous for the glory due his name; a God who has moved heaven and earth and dealt a death blow to the power of sin!

Sin will keep us ineffective for God, which is the opposite of his desires for us. So, if you are in a hopeless situation hopefully this message will rekindle the hope in you. You may never outrun grace. As Corrie ten Boom used to say, "There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still."

Let's turn to Psalm 51 to see this point.

#### READ TEXT

4 Truths to rekindle your hope in God, 4 truths to keep you from being ineffective for God:

#### 1. God is in Pursuit of You (1-5)

- From the superscription (title) we learn the background of this prayerful Psalm.
- 2 Samuel 11 and 12
- David was trying to hide his sin until he was confronted by the word of the Lord. David's attitude after the confrontation by Nathan highlights the awesome power of God's word!
- God pursues his servants, his chosen and called ones, with an awesome and great jealous love. God would not allow sin to go so easily unnoticed and would not allow his servant to slip far from him.
- Just as God came looking for Adam and Eve after they sinned, so God seeks David to pull him out of hiding by sending Nathan to David and declaring, 'Thou art the man!' (2 Samuel 12:7)
- The love of God, expressed unto us by the self-giving of the Son, is the most powerful force mankind can know. The bonds that were forged from the foundation of the world between you who love him and he who loved you, are not so easily broken!

- God will pursue us. When you and I stray from him, he will confront us with how great he is and how disastrous sin is. All this an act of love to draw us close to life. Sure, repentance may require pain, but the greater pain is from not walking with God, to not know the joy of salvation!
- Even after we have made a mess and have to deal with the severe consequences of sin, God is there with grace as our Good Shepherd to make the bones that He has broken rejoice (Psalm 51:8)
- Look at the way God pursues:
- v.1 - David knows that he still belongs to God
- Have mercy - a term indicating that he has no claim for what he is asking for. His only hope is the mercy of God
- Have mercy is balanced with the covenant language of steadfast love. He realizes that his only hope is not himself, but the faithful love of God
- Then he says, *blot out*
- David understand the severity of sin. David is not asking God to simply look over the sin, but to completely absolve it. The bloody and gruesome Cross of Jesus shows the way that God chose to blot out sin. The way that God blotted out sin was by the death of the Son.
- This is the wonder of God's pursuit, the extensiveness of God's pursuit. That he would make people who have no hope but him to hope in him!
- David's sin was treason (4), but still God came graciously and surely pursuing him

If God convicts you, don't run from him run towards him. Here is why:

## 2. God is Able to Forgive (6-12)

- Read verse 7
- Our only hope comes from God, the one that we had transgressed against, to offer cleansing
- In the original Hebrew, there are a set of imperatives (command verbs) that we should see
- *You will teach me... (6)*
- *You will purge me... (7)*
- *You will wash me... (7)*
- *You will let me hear... (8)*
- *You will let the bones... (8)*
- In other words, because God is the only one qualified to forgive, because our offense has been against him (because all have sinned and fallen short) he is the only one qualified to forgive.
- And when he forgives, he makes us whiter than snow. We need God's forgiveness because his forgiveness is total forgiveness. And the way that he offers us total forgiveness was by taking all our sin, all our sorrows, and making them his very own, by nailing himself to a tree, by becoming the full curse for us so that we could have the full pardon of heaven.
- David is asking God for a miracle.
- Look at this term in verse 10. By using this word *create* he is asking God to do what only God can do.
- David is asking God to help him stay on course.
- Look at verse 11
- David remembers Saul, remembers that the worst thing that happened to Saul was when God removed his presence from him. David is asking God to help him practice his faith, to help him persevere in his faith. He is not talking about losing salvation but asking God to help him realize his salvation
- Paul does the same thing in 1 Cor 9:27 - *But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*
- The point is not despair, God's purposeful convicting pursuit is not to make us despair, is to make us run to the only one qualified to forgive. And he has offered us forgiveness at the expense of his own self through the death of Jesus.
- Look at verse 10 - David doesn't turn to despair, he turns to Jesus
- Verse 12 - this language of restore - David is one of God's own and because he has placed faith in God he has hope.

- If you are here today without Jesus, you don't have hope. Your sin remains. But you can have hope, you can have forgiveness, but you must confess like David is here, and believe in Jesus.

Don't lose hope, God is able to forgive. God is also able to transform:

### 3. God is Able to Transform (13-17)

- God wants our whole hearts, not a divided heart. God doesn't want us to forgive and go back, ask for forgiveness and go back. He wants our lives to display his work of grace.
- Look at the text in 13. See the transition - then
- David's faith in God provides confidence in the midst of his despair - only faith in God can do this.
- David wants his faith to be infectious to others.
- Have you ever known someone with an infectious faith? The kind of people who when you are around them you sense the difference that grace has made? Joy that is inexpressible finds a way of expressing it in these people. They are infectious, you want what they have.
- Look at the text
- Then - after God has done a miracle in our lives. Then, will our lives be used for God and his glory.
- Deliver me... and...
- Open my lips...
- As verses 16 and 17 tells us, God is after our hearts. And only he can transform our hearts!

To put it finally and in the simplest way that I know this AM. Why should you hope in God?

### 4. God is the Only Hope (18-19)

- Look at the way the Psalm ends.
- The Psalm ends with a prayer for God's people.
- Our only hope is to turn whole heartedly to God

Weary of earth, and laden with my sin, I look to  
heaven and long to enter in, But there no evil thing  
may find a home:

And yet I hear a voice that bids me "Come."

2 So vile I am, how dare I hope to stand in the pure glory of that holy land?  
Before the whiteness of that Throne appear?  
Yet there are Hands stretch'd out to draw me near.

3 The while I fain would tread the heavenly way,  
Evil is ever with me, day be day;  
Yet on mine ears the gracious tidings fall,  
"Repent, confess, thou shalt be loosed from all."

4 It is the voice of Jesus that I hear,  
His are the Hands stretch'd out to draw me near, And His the  
Blood that can for all atone, And set me faultless there before  
the Throne.

5 'Twas He Who found me on the deathly wild,  
And made me heir of heaven, the Father's child, And day by  
day, whereby my soul may live, Gives me His grace of pardon,  
and will give.

6 O great Absolver, grant my soul may wear  
The holiest gain of penitence and prayer,  
That in the Father's courts my glorious dress May be the  
garment of Thy righteousness.

7 Yea, Thou wilt answer for me, righteous Lord,  
Thine all the merits, mine the great reward; Thin the sharp thorns,  
and made the golden crown, Mine the life won, and Tune the life  
laid down.

8 Naught can I bring dear Lord, for all I owe,  
Yet let my full heart what it can bestow; Myself my gift, let my  
devotion prove, Forgiven greatly, how I greatly love.

S.J. Stone (1866)

The way forward for us is having our hearts seared to his. God wants the best from us, wants to restore and renew us. Does he have our hearts, are we asking him to do what only he can do, no matter the cost? Rekindle the hope, turn wholly to Jesus.