



March 26, 2017

Psalm 51

*“The Sin Solution”*

Pastor Gary Hamrick

In this very vulnerable psalm, David wrote about his own sin and how he longed for God’s forgiveness. David teaches us something important about the human condition in general, in that we are all sinners in need of God’s forgiveness. David also teaches us about the remarkable fact that God is merciful, loving, and compassionate. If you are now or if you’ve ever been at a place where you long to be right with God and to know that all the wrong things you’ve ever said or done can be forgiven by God, then Pastor Gary’s message will be particularly meaningful to you!

### Historical Background

1. Pastor Gary said: “... mankind has always had this innate, inherent realization that there is something bad or wrong or evil in [a person’s] life, and then with that realization there is this longing for atonement for whatever this evil, wicked, bad thing is in [his or her] life. The Bible has a word for evil, bad, wicked things in our lives and the word in the Bible is sin, and that [is] really what Psalm 51 is about. David [was] aware of his sinfulness. He was aware of what [was] wrong, and evil, and bad in his life... and he desperately [wanted] to be right with God.”
2. **Psalm 51:1-2** - *“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.”* (Emphasis added)
  - a. The Hebrew word for sin is chatta’ ah, which means, missing the mark; a failure to attain God’s standard.
  - b. The Hebrew word for iniquity is avon, which means, twisted or bent, and it describes the bent or twisted character of an individual and inherent moral perversity.

- i. **Jeremiah 17:9** - *“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”*
  - c. The Hebrew word for transgression is pesha, which means, willful rebellion.
3. Pastor Gary said: “God has a line... and the line that God draws is perfect. It is his standard. When we cross the line, that’s transgression [because] we are willfully, deliberately doing something wrong... When we pervert the line or change it or redefine it that’s iniquity. When we don’t even measure up to the line, that’s sin.”
  4. **Romans 2:15** - *“... the requirements of the law are written on [our] hearts, [and our] consciences also bearing witness...”*
  5. We have an understanding about right and wrong because God has put that in the heart of every human being.
  6. **Psalm 51:3-4** - *“For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.”*

#### The Sin Condition

7. **Psalm 51:5** - *“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”*
8. **Psalm 58:3** - *“Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies.”*
9. **Ephesians 2:3b** - *“... we were by nature objects of wrath.”*
  - a. *“... [we] were by nature children of wrath...”* KJV
10. Everyone has an innate sinful nature.
11. When Adam rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden, he corrupted his nature, and that sinful nature was then passed on to every succeeding generation.
12. **Romans 3:23** - *“[For] all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”*
13. **Ecclesiastes 7:20** - *“There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.”*

14. **1 John 1:8** - *"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."*

### The Sin Deception

15. Pastor Gary said: "Sin is pleasant for a season, but after it runs its course it leaves you feeling empty and betrayed. Sin promises much, but delivers very little, and it usually comes with a cost. It deceives us because it never speaks of the consequences. Sin will never tell you the consequences up front; it will only speak of the pleasure. The problem is that the pleasure will only last for a short time, however, consequences can sometimes last for a lifetime. Sin is very deceptive."
16. **Hebrews 3:13** - *"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."*
17. Pastor Gary said: "There are many people hearing my voice right now who are living a lifetime of regrets because of decisions they have made. And I urge you and encourage you; if you are at a place right now where you are being stared down by temptation itself; run as fast as you can!"

### The Sin Progression

18. **2 Samuel 11:2** - *"One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he **saw** a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful..."* (Emphasis added)
19. **2 Samuel 11:4a** - *"Then David **sent** messengers to get her. She came to him, and he **slept** with her."*
20. The progression is obvious in these verses: saw, sent, and slept.
21. Pastor Gary said: "There was a way out for [David]. The same stairs that took him up to the roof of the palace were the same stairs that could take him down, but he chose not to... God will always provide us a way of escape."
22. **1 Corinthians 10:13** - *"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, **he will also provide a way out** so that you can stand up under it."* (Emphasis added)
23. Temptation itself is not sin.

24. **James 1:13-15** - *“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me,’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”*
25. Pastor Gary said: “Look for the out. God has always provided it... take it as fast as you can!”

### The Sin Contrition

26. To be contrite is to feel sorry about bad behavior.
27. **Psalm 51:1-2** - *“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.”* (Emphasis added)
28. David appealed to the love, mercy and compassion of the Lord.
29. **Psalm 51:9-12, 17** - *“Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”*
30. Pastor Gary said: “[God] loves broken people. [He loves] people who will come to the place of being contrite and just broken in heart and humble before [him]... [and] admit that [they] are wrong and [they] confess sins to [him]... All God wants... in regards to our sin is brokenness.”

### The Sin Solution

31. **Psalm 51:16** - *“You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.”*
32. David wrote about sacrifice and burnt offerings because the Old Testament sacrificial system that God established was still in place.
33. The sacrificial system temporarily appeased the wrath of God.

34. [Hebrews 10:4](#) - *"... it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."*
35. David wanted more than God's wrath to be appeased; he wanted God to take away his sins and to cleanse him from within!
36. David wanted a permanent solution to the sin problem.
37. [Galatians 4:4-5](#) - *"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son... to redeem [us]."*
38. When we come to God and seek his forgiveness for our sin, he expunges all record of our sin because of the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus, on the cross.
39. Someone has said that the definition of the word justified can be more easily understood as: "It's just as if I'd never sinned."
40. [Psalm 103:11-12](#) - *"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."*

#### Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Psalm 51](#) to provide the foundation for this study.
3. How did the Holy Spirit convince you about as well as convict you of sin in your life?
4. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about the definition of transgression, iniquity, and sin. (See #3 above)
5. Provide an overview of the Scriptures Pastor Gary mentioned concerning the sin condition. (See #7 through #14 above)
6. Share examples of the ways sin has deceived you.
7. How has the Holy Spirit helped you remember the consequences of sin?

8. Read and discuss [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) and [James 1:13-15](#).
9. Spend time talking about temptation
10. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about times when they have sought the love, mercy, and compassion of the Lord concerning their desire to be forgiven for sin.
11. Read and discuss [Psalm 51:1-2; 9-12; 17](#).
12. Provide an overview of the comments and Scriptures Pastor Gary shared concerning the sin solution. (See #31 through #40 above)
13. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).