

# The Blessedness of Forgiveness

## Chapter 11

### Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 37



Objective: To understand what true repentance is and how God forgives our sin.



*“If 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

*“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”*

—Psalm 51:10

In the psalms that David wrote in the years of turmoil after he sinned, we come to understand his greatness, even though he had failed morally and spiritually.

David was a king for 40 years—for 16 years before he sinned, and for 24 more years after God restored his soul and kingdom. But that restoration only came after David walked in the paths of righteousness by confessing his sin, repenting of it, and committing himself to follow the Lord’s way.

Like David, we all have a guilt problem. God’s solution to our guilt problem is forgiveness, but to experience His forgiveness, like David, we must confess that that we have sinned. We show that we understand and believe God’s solution to our guilt problem when we confess and then offer the sacrifices of righteousness—doing what is right—that express our repentance and put trust in the Lord. When we follow the example of David’s confession in Psalm 51, we are following God’s path for forgiveness and restoration. We then can experience the blessedness of forgiveness, because our guilt will then be removed.



1. True or false? David is only a minor character because the Bible does not give much space to his life.
2. True or false? The historical information in 1 and 2 Samuel helps us understand the book of Psalms.
3. True or false? The psalms always describe for us how life is when everything goes well.

*Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.*

4. What happens when we try to be our own shepherd?
  - a. We are able to control our lives well.
  - b. We always know which direction to take.
  - c. God blesses us for our independence.
  - d. Life does not work out well.
5. How did David respond when another man cursed him?
  - a. He did not stop the cursing because he thought he might deserve it.
  - b. He executed the man who cursed him.
  - c. He became afraid of God.
  - d. He answered the man with another curse.
6. What happens when we submit to God's chastisement?
  - a. He keeps chastising us until we are very embarrassed and discouraged.
  - b. He restores our soul.
  - c. He tells us to stop complaining.
  - d. We lose status in God's eyes.
7. How do we know when we are forgiven?
  - a. When we deny that we are guilty
  - b. When people forgive us just as God does
  - c. When we forget what we did
  - d. The Bible says we are forgiven when we confess and repent.
8. When David asks God to create a new heart in him, what is he really asking for?
  - a. To go back to the way he was before he was a sinner
  - b. To help him change his mind about sin
  - c. For God to create something entirely new that David has never had
  - d. To be physically healthy again
9. What did David believe about restoration?
  - a. That God would certainly restore him
  - b. That God might restore him if he promised never to sin again
  - c. That God was reluctant to restore him
  - d. That God only restores people from small sins

10. How does God really want us to react to our sin?
- a. He wants us to make the right animal sacrifices.
  - b. He wants us to have a broken and sorrowful heart.
  - c. He wants us to hide our sin from everyone else.
  - d. He wants us to understand that we have not sinned as badly as others.

11. What does confession mean?
- a. We are very sorry we were caught.
  - b. We say we are sorry.
  - c. We must do penance and sacrifice.
  - d. We agree with God and admit that we sinned.



Can you remember a time when you had a broken heart about your sin? What did you say to God? In what ways did He restore you?

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Ask God to give you the same perspective on sin that He has. Ask God to help you to see your sin as He sees it and that you quickly confess it to Him. Thank Him that He loves you enough to chastise you when you sin. Thank Him for His promise to restore your soul.



### Going Deeper

1. What does Psalm 51 tell us about the confession of his sin, and what does Psalm 32 tell us about the results of that confession and the state of David’s spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical health before he made that confession? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What kind of a year did David experience while he was trying to cover-up all that he had done? (I recommend the Living Bible Paraphrase of Psalm 32 while you are thinking about the answers to these questions.) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What does this tell us about the futility of trying to cover up and live with unconfessed sin?

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4. In Psalm 51 David literally prays in the Hebrew to *un-sin my sin*. He also uses the word “justified.” In what way does this show us that David was a prophet? What books of the New Testament were written to show us what God had to do to make it possible for God to un-sin our sin, or to declare us justified? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How do these two books of Samuel help us to know how to interpret many of David’s psalms? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Explain the meaning of this statement: “When we bring our guilt and sin before God with a confession, we must then remember what God remembers, and forget what God forgets.” \_\_\_\_\_

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7. David prayed the great petition, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10) What was he telling God and us about himself, and what, precisely, was he asking God to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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