**God Restores the Sinner**

**(See: The Path to Sin.docx)**

Psalms 51:10-12 create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

David wrote this psalm after he had really messed up. He had had an affair with Bathsheba, she became pregnant and In order to cover it up, he had her husband, Uriah, killed in battle. Then David married Bathsheba. He thought he had gotten away with it all.

Then One day, Nathan the prophet came to David and told him a parable about a rich man that had many sheep. When a visitor came to his house, instead of taking one of his own sheep to prepare for dinner, he sent for the only pet lamb that a poor man had nearby. He had raised it as his daughter and it slept in his arms. The rich man took it away and ate it for dinner.

David burned with anger when he heard the story and said 'That man deserves to die!' Nathan then told him: 'You are that man!' That had to hurt, to be confronted with all that he had so carefully hidden, but it was the beginning of restoration.

David said that his sin was always before him he could not stop thinking about it. He repented of what he had done and that prayer was recorded in Psalm 51. In verse 12, David asked God to restore the joy. It is hard to find joy in the Lord when your sin is always in front of you.

The joy of knowing & serving the Lord and your relationship with God will suffer until you make things right again. Nothing is hidden from God but he does give us opportunities to repent.

2 Samuel 12:13 David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”

In this psalm, David shows concern that he will be casted away from Gods presence, losing the Holy Spirit and losing his hope for salvation. We can see from this David’s deep desire to be made right with God and fear of losing his relationship with God. When we mess up the top thing on our list should be to get right with God ASAP. Many times we try to justify what we have done, make excuses or even cover it up. What we really need to do is admit we are wrong and restore our relationship with God. In the end God forgave David and restored him because he repented

When we mess up we need to address it immediately, before it turns into something bigger. We can see this in David’s case

2 Samuel 11 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.  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, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” 4 Then David sent messengers to get her.

So the first problem was David should have gone to war with his men but he stayed back in his palace while his men were out fighting for him. Second, he spotted a woman bathing and instead of turning away he continues to look and notices she is very beautiful. Then he takes it to the next step to inquire about her at which point he finds out she is married but David doesn’t stop and repent No he takes the next step and has someone go and get her.

It all started with an accidental and innocent look but turns into David having an affair with a married woman and then covering it up, to save himself from any embarrassment, by having the husband killed (Sounds like a typical Whitehouse scandal).

This is how sin works. We are faced with a circumstance where we need to make a decision to do what is right or what is wrong. Often, we will find some rationalization to go one step further and before long we are caught in the enemy’s trap thinking we are still in control. Then instead of just confessing and repenting for the wrong we did we decide to take the low road and keep doing other sins to cover up the original sin.

When we first realize, we have been or are being lured into sin we need to stop, take ownership, stand up and say "I am the one!" and repent. Don’t wait for God to confront you with it. Don’t walking around joyless and depressed or even angry that we have done it. If you ask God, He will forgive you, and the mistake becomes history.

Everyone falls into sin. The Bible is full of people who have messed up.

* Adam ate the apple
* Noah got drunk
* Abraham lied (Said his wife was his sister out of fear)
* Jacob deceived his father and stole his brother’s birthright.
* Joseph was full of Pride (father’s favorite & telling his Dreams)
* Moses killed an Egyptian
* Solomon married many wives that turned his heart to idols
* Peter denied Jesus 3 times (Jesus restored him to be the foundation of his Church)
* Paul was hunting down Christians before he followed Christ
* The list goes on and on

Maybe you think your sin is so bad that God could never forgive you:

2 Chronicles tells us about the most wicked king that Judah had ever known named Manasseh. During his fifty-five-year reign, he built altars to Baal & Asheroth, sacrificed his own children to pagan gods, dealt in fortune-telling, sorcery, mediums, necromancers, made carved idols and placed them in God's temple, and filled Israel with innocent blood.

Manasseh was so evil he even had God’s prophet Isaiah sawn in half (Hebrews 11:37). Manasseh refused to listen to the Lord and led the people of Judah away from Him. Finally, God gave him and Judah over to the king of Assyria, who put him in chains and took him captive to Babylon.

We read in 2 Chronicles 33:10-13 The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. So the Lord brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. **In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors. And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea**; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God.

After all the evil that Manasseh had done, when things got bad he called out to God and God restored him. Manasseh was spared and brought back to his kingdom. God had mercy on the most wicked king, recorded in the Bible, when he humbled himself.

No matter what your past is, if you humbly ask God to help you, He will. It is not because you deserve it, it is because He is a good and loving Father. God will never give up on you. In fact, He will use your past as your testimony and use you to lead others out of their own darkness.

The Bible tells us that God loves the sinners and is always seeking to save them:

Mark 2:16-18 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he (Jesus) was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.**”

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to **seek and to save the lost.**”

## Turn to the Gospel of Luke 7:36-39 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.” Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said. “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

The woman, who knew she was a sinner and needed Christ, wept at the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair, while the religious “Self-righteous” man was shocked that Jesus would allow such a person to touch even His feet because He thought righteous people should not hang around or even touch “Sinners.”

Jesus then told the religious man that this lost person loved God more than he ever did.

* **Sometimes it is through our Sin that we can clearly see how much we need Christ and how much he truly loves us.**

We can see this in the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) where the younger son (Christians) realized his sin and ran back home to his father to beg for forgiveness while the older son (Jews) felt self-righteous and that he didn’t owe the father anything.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Luke 15:4-7 4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders  and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

Luke 15:8-10 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

In these parables, we see that heaven **rejoices** over ever sinner that repents and turns to Christ. These stories really show what a warm and open-heart God has towards the lost sinner.

God loves sinners and welcomes them with open arms. Do not let the things that you have been through or done make you feel unworthy of His love.
God can handle damaged goods. He was there when the damage took place, and you will never know how much He loves you until you surrender your heart to Him and let Him heal it. He can put your life back together again, where others have only broken it.

God is Seeking and calling the lost sinners to him. This includes those who have committed sexual sin, divorce, stealing, lying, cheating even murder (like in David’s case) We just have to recognize our sin for what it is, turn from it and except Jesus blood as payment for it.

This does not mean we can sin as we please and not suffer the consequences for our Sins. In each case above there were consequences: Adam bought Sin into the world and was kicked out of the garden, Joseph was sold into slavery, Manasseh was captured with hooks and bound in chains and David lost his 1st son with Bathsheba. But God will restore us so that we can move on: He gave David another son and he restored Manasseh as King and Joseph became ruler of the Egypt.

None of us will ever reach perfection while we are still in the flesh. We will do things wrong and fail to carry out obligations that we are called to do. But we can take courage from the rich examples of the past, strive to overcome our weaknesses, and pursue the life of renewed dedication each day

Romans 15:4 for whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

The most amazing thing is God can take our Sin and make something good come out of it

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

We see this is true as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and Solomon were all part of Jesus lineage.

There are many people that believe they are safe from Hell only because they think a good and loving father would never send His Children to hell and even more a God who was truly merciful would never Judge and condemn someone to Hell for committing just a few small sins.

Don’t be fooled by the enemies lies. We see in the bible God didn’t even give an exception to his very own son who had no sin even when he prayed. “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”(Luke 22:42)

If God sent his very own son to pay the price for our sins do you really think he would give you a pass especially if you denied the payment provided by His own Son. Wouldn’t that nullify all the pain and suffering Jesus went through on the cross to pay that price. At that point we would be expected to pay the price ourselves.

God wants to do something great in you don’t let your sin get in the way. Repent and turn from it right away and let God know you want his fullness in your life. God can do great things in and through you if you just let him.

When you do something wrong do you try to hide it, rationalize it or do you confess it and ask God to forgive you and give you strength to walk away in the future?