

HEAVY HEART, LOAD LIFTED

Psalms 51

Introduction: Satan is very subtle in getting people, especially God's children, to sin, often whispering that "it's alright, nobody will ever know" and then after one has sinned, Satan in some way reminds that person that "you'll never get away with it cause God knows what you did."

- Everybody sins, but the Christian, God's child, has a unique place to turn to that will take him/her past the sin and on to forgiveness.
- David committed adultery with Bathsheba, then had her husband killed in trying to cover up that sin. He was confronted with a man of God and Psalm 51 describes David's sincere heartfelt need and desire to become right with God again.

I. EVERY CHILD OF GOD IS CAPABLE OF SIN

1. Salvation does not take away the capacity to sin.
 - 1 John reminds that one is only fooling him/herself if he/she thinks to have stopped sinning.
 - The Old Sin Nature remains with the believer as long as he/she is alive on this earth.
2. Sin cannot take away one's salvation but it will cause spiritual and emotional stress of that person and also separate fellowship with God.

II. CONSEQUENCES OF SIN IN THE CHILD OF GOD (vv. 1, 2)

1. David knew that he had sinned and there were going to be consequences.
2. Sin in the life of a child of God makes his/her life miserable, taking it's toll in many ways.

III. SIN DIRTIES THE SOUL

1. David felt dirty inside and wanted his soul to be clean once again.
2. Sad and strange but sin doesn't seem to cause one who is not a child of God to feel dirty.
 - A non-christian has no problem taking the Lord's name in vain for sin is a natural, even unconscious act of the unsaved person.
3. God's children (Christians) detest being dirty with sin and like David, they go to God for help and forgiveness. It may not be immediate, but sooner or later they go to God.

IV. SIN CREATES UNREST IN THE MIND OF THE CHILD OF GOD (v. 3)

1. David could not rest night or day, tossing and turning, pacing back and forth.
2. The non-christian is not bothered as such and can soon forget it, if bothered at all.
3. The Holy Spirit will keep that unconfessed sin continuously in the child of God's mind until sincerely, confessed to God and forgiveness is asked for.

V. SIN STINGS THE CONSCIENCE (v. 4)

1. David's was conscience stricken and cried out against what he had done.
2. A child of God grieves over his/her sins because he/she knows that his/her sins have grieved the Heavenly Father.
3. When God's children sin, it breaks His heart, and it should bother that sinful child greatly.

VI. SIN MAKES THE HEART SAD (vv. 8, 12)

1. David knew God still loved him but something was missing, the fellowship was gone.
2. The most unhappy person in the world is not a non-christian, it is the child of God who is out of fellowship with God because of unconfessed sin and his/her life is absolutely miserable.
3. Any child of God whose life is miserable and is not enjoying daily fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ has unconfessed sin somewhere that has gotten in the way of his/her relationship with the Lord.

VII SIN ALSO CAN MAKE THE PHYSICAL BODY SICK (v. 8)

1. Although God hadn't actually broken David's bones, it felt like He had to David.
 - When God's child sins, God doesn't let go, He just squeezes tighter.
 - Many of God's children have and are (become) sick because they hung onto their unconfessed sin.
2. A child of God cannot experience the joy of the Lord if walking away from God and is without His peace and joy and can become physically sick.

VIII. SIN MAKES THE SOUL SOUR (v. 10)

1. David was miserable inside because he had a wrong spirit.
 - God's prophet, Nathan, told a story to David which showed him his guilt.
2. Some of the most unlikable, hateful, gossipy, sour, backbiting, cantankerous people on earth are sadly children of God who are out of fellowship with God because of unconfessed sin in their lives.

IX. SIN SHUTS THE MOUTH (v. 12-16)

1. David talked about all the good things he was going to do after getting right with God.
2. Sin shuts the believer's mouth and quiets the heart when Satan whispers that "a sinner doesn't sing or talk about Jesus and besides God doesn't want you anymore.."
3. With unconfessed sin in the child of God's life, he/she doesn't feel like saying very much about God.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's salvation is eternal but sin separates the believer from fellowship with God. Joy is gone and his/her life is miserable but there is always a way to get that joy back.
2. Believer, know for certain that God still loves you and you are still saved even when you sin.
 - Satan will try to get you to believe differently but remember, he is the chief, father of lies.
 - God still loves His children, no matter how many times they have failed in sin.
 - David committed adultery and then murder. For great sin, there is greater grace.
3. Believer, confess that sin (sins) to God, but do so seriously, agreeing with God, without alibi or excuse. God wants sincerity, a repentant heart and He will forgive and restore the joy.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9