



SERIES: MY LIFE WITH GOD

Whatever Happened to Sin?

Life Reference: Psalm 51

Focus Verse:

"Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities" (Psalm 51:9)

Whatever happened to sin? It's not a word used much in today's speech. In fact, many things our parents recognized as sin just aren't any longer—at least according to current thought. In an age of shifting values, there are few moral absolutes. Instead, the things once recognized as sin are now considered our personal values; and as long as they aren't harming others, what's the problem?

The problem is that God's definition of sin has never changed. What God once declared sin remains sin today.

- "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89).
- "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Luke 21:33).



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Life Reflection:

How would you define sin?

We don't like to talk about sin, so we often substitute another "nicer" word—fault, slip-up, mistake—to make our action sound "less sinful." What words have you heard substituted, or perhaps even used yourself, to make sin sound more acceptable?

Are we fooling God—or only ourselves?

- "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

King David is often referred to as "a man after God's own heart," yet II Samuel 11 and 12 tell the story of a time when he fell into great sin. First, he committed adultery with Bathsheba, and then he created an elaborate scheme to cover his sin. Ultimately, he had Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, placed in the front lines of battle so that he would be killed. God, however, sent the prophet Nathan to confront him about his sin. David readily confessed and repented.

Psalm 51 gives us David's prayer of repentance. This psalm provides an example of how we can approach God if we have fallen into sin.



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1. David acknowledged that he had sinned.

- “For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me” (Psalm 51:3).

When we sin and are then discovered, it is easy for us to try to justify our action. We attempt to shift the blame or may become defensive. Another ploy is to categorize certain sins as worse than others. “It was only a little white lie. It’s not like I ...”(fill in the blank). Unfortunately for us, God’s Word considers all sins equally. He doesn’t rank them from “not so bad” to “really, really terrible.” All sin is an affront to God and is a transgression of His law.

When confronted by Nathan, the prophet, David did not offer excuses, blame his circumstances in life, or point his finger at someone else. He admitted that he had done wrong.

Life Reflection:

Have you ever been confronted by someone (family member, friend, pastor) about sin in your life? Were you willing to admit your wrong, or did you try to make an excuse or shift the blame?

- While it is sometimes possible to conceal our wrongdoing from others, it is impossible to hide our sins from God. He extends mercy to the offender, but only when we confess and forsake our sin. Confession alone is not sufficient; we must completely turn away from our transgression.
- “For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known” (Luke 12:2).
- “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them



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shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

2. David approached God with honesty.

- "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom" (Psalm 51:6).
- Not only are we sometimes not completely honest with God, we try to fool ourselves as well. We rationalize about what we did and convince ourselves that it wasn't really so bad after all. Psalm 19:12 says, "Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults" (NKJV). Another version reads, "How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?" (NLT). If we sincerely seek God and ask His help, He will reveal these secret things to us.

Life Reflection:

The only way we can restore our broken relationship with the Lord is to be completely honest with Him and with ourselves. Has God ever revealed things to you that were lurking in your heart?

How did you deal with these hidden sins?



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3. David realized that his sin was against God.

Not only did David acknowledge his sin, he admitted that his sin was against God.

- “Against thee, and thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight” (Psalm 51:4).
- “I have sinned against the LORD” (II Samuel 12:13).

Why would David say this? Surely, he had sinned against both Bathsheba and Uriah, her husband. His actions also affected his own family and even the nation of Israel. Sin does harm others, but ultimately all sin is rebellion against God and His commandments. It breaks our relationship with Him. All sin is against God.

- “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).

4. David repented and sought restoration.

David sinned, but he found no pleasure in his sin. What he had done haunted him and robbed him of sleep. He felt conviction for the wrong he had done.

- “When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah” (Psalm 32:3-4).
- “For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me” (Psalm 38:4).

He was willing for—longed for—God to purge him and make him clean. He was tired of the misery he felt and eager to renew his fellowship with the Lord. God willingly restores the repentant soul.

- “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” (Psalm 34:18).





- “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow ... Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:7, 10).

5. David prayed for his joy to return.

David had experienced the joy of being in right relationship with God, but his transgression broke the bond and robbed him of that delight. Sin’s pleasure—which is not joy—is fleeting at best. God’s joy is eternal. The child of God has the privilege of living in this state of joy even in times of testing and trouble. David prayed for God to renew the joy he once felt.

- “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation” (Psalm 51:12).
- “You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11, NKJV).

Life Reflection

All of us have failed God at one time or another. We are all sinners. No one is excluded, for “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The good news is that He understands our human frailties. Psalm 103:14 says that “He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust” (NKJV).

The fact that God recognizes our humanity does not mean He excuses our sin. According to Romans 6:23, the penalty of sin is death. And the penalty must be paid.

Is there hope for our condition? Yes! Jesus offered Himself in our place that we could be free from sin. Only love would cause Him to do this, a love beyond our comprehension.

- “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (I Peter 2:24).
- “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14).

Because He died in our place, sin no longer has dominion over us. We are the recipients of His grace.





Does God's grace permit us to continue in sin? No! A thousand times no.

- "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1-2).

Whatever happened to sin? It still exists and it still separates us from God, but there is a remedy. God in His mercy offers forgiveness when we come to Him in repentance and turn our backs on that sin.

**"If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared"
(Psalm 130: 3-4, NIV).**

My Prayer:

Dear Lord, search me and show me any sin in my life that is damaging my relationship with You. Help me to be honest with You and willing to confess my wrongdoings. Cleanse me and wash me so that the joy I find in Your presence will be restored to me. Thank You for Your love, forgiveness, and grace. Guide me each day and keep me close to You so that I do not stumble.

More Life with God References:

Psalm 32
Isaiah 55:7
Romans 6
Hebrews 3:13
Hebrews 12:1
James 1:12-15
I Peter 2:11
I John 1

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