

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE A TOTAL FAILURE, Part 1

Date: August 17, 2025 - Psalm 51

Central Idea: Heartfelt confession of sin replaces a believer's guilt with joy. Are you experiencing this joy?

Introduction:

This is the hymn of the broken heart. Psalm 51 records David's confession after his sin with Bathsheba. Overwhelmed with guilt, he implored God to cleanse and restore him to a right relationship with Him. David acknowledged his sinfulness and wrongdoing and longed for the joy that his sin had destroyed. He asked God to restore the joy of his salvation and grant him new opportunities to worship and serve Him.

David made three requests:

I. David Prayed for Cleansing, Psalm 51:1-7.

1. He acknowledged his sins, vv. 1-4a; Colossians 2:13-14.
2. He affirmed God's character, vv. 4b-6.
3. He asked for cleansing, v. 7; 1 John 1:9.

II. David Longed for Restoration, Psalm 51:8-15.

1. He wanted his joy and spirit renewed, vv. 8-12; 1 Cor. 9:27.
2. He wanted his testimony and worship renewed, vv. 13-15.

III. David Embraced Brokenness and Contrition, Psalm 51:16-19.

1. He knew how to approach God, vv. 16-18.
2. He knew what pleased God, v. 19.

Conclusion:

This versatile, practical, and incomparable hymn has been repeated and rehearsed ten thousand times in the lives and testimonies of the people of God in all ages.

"God is merciful and gracious and forgives when we come in repentance and faith (1 John 1:9). David did not want cheap forgiveness; he came with a broken heart."

(Wiersbe, Warren W. *With the Word*. Thomas Nelson, p. 341.)