

## Dealing with Sin

Psalm 32: 1-5

Once again we have read a Psalm of David. This particular Psalm is known as a *Maschil*, psalms written to provide instruction and guidance. Psalm 32 is the first of thirteen such psalms. It is widely accepted that this psalm was written in relation to David's sin with Bathsheba and the murderous plot to kill Uriah, her husband. Most agree David wrote this psalm following his confrontation with Nathan regarding his sin, and in keeping his promise in Psalm 51, also written about the sin with Bathsheba. [Psalm 51:12-13 – Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.](#) <sup>[13]</sup> [Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.](#)

While this psalm may be somewhat uncomfortable to consider, I am certain we all can relate to the words of David. We are all born in sin, and continue to dwell in bodies of flesh that are prone to sin. Those within the body of Christ strive to live above sin, and yet we continue to miss the mark and fall short. How we deal with sin in our lives has a direct effect on our spiritual lives and victory over sin. One thing is certain – sin must be dealt with; it will not just go away. We can try to hide it, and even ignore it, but unless we confess and repent of sin, it remains.

Our text today offers valuable instruction for anyone dealing with sin. I want to consider the [experiences](#) of David as we discuss: [Dealing with Sin](#).

**I. The Blessing of Cleansing** (1-2) – [Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.](#) <sup>[2]</sup> [Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.](#) Here David rejoices for the cleansing from sin available in the Lord. Consider:

**A. The Depravity of Sin** – In order to fully appreciate our cleansing from sin, one must first realize the utter depravity of sin. David mentioned four specific sins he had been guilty of. He spoke of:

- **Transgressions** – This has the idea of “*stepping over a boundary, or crossing the line.*” It refers to open rebellion against God and His desire for our lives.
- **Sin** – This carries the idea of “*missing the mark.*” It paints a picture of a crooked arrow that is unable to fly accurately and hit the desired target.
- **Iniquity** – This means “*bent or crooked.*” It refers to being distorted. That is exactly how the nature of the old man appears.

- **Guile** – This means “*to be deceitful.*” It speaks of one who is dishonest and deceptive.

**B. The Deliverance from Sin** – Although David had sinned against God, he discovered the Lord offered deliverance from sin. David rejoiced that:

- **Transgressions can be Forgiven** – Transgressions can be “*lifted up and carried away.*” Stepping over the boundaries God has set for us can be forgiven. He is willing to lift our transgression and carry them away from us! [Psalm 103:12 – As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.](#)
- **Sin can be Covered** – This means “*to conceal, to clothe, to hide from view.*” This reveals the beauty of imputed righteousness in Christ. As God looks at those born again in Christ, He doesn’t see their sin; He sees the righteousness of His Son. We are cleansed by His blood.
- **Iniquity is not Imputed** – The Lord no longer holds our sin against us. Imputed means “*to reckon, or place on one’s account.*” My account has been marked “Paid in Full” through the sacrifice of Christ my Lord.
- **Our spirit is free of Guile** – We can live our lives before the Lord free of any deceit, dishonesty, or deception. This leads to real contentment and peace, being open and honest with the Lord regarding our sin and our need.

**II. The Burden of Conviction** (3-4) – Here David provided insight regarding the dreadful time when he walked contrary to the will of God, being convicted of his sin. Notice:

**A. The Departure** (3) – [When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.](#) David admitted that he had departed from the paths of righteousness. He was walking according to the desires of the flesh, and this had a direct impact on his spiritual life. He was silent before the Lord; he no longer communed with God in prayer. His fellowship with the Lord had been broken because of sin. (You can do a lot of things with sin in your life. You can even continue to serve within the church. However, you cannot pray and fellowship with God as long as there is unconfessed sin in your life. [Psalm 66:18 – If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.](#))

**B. The Despair** (3) – [When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.](#) The spiritual sin in David’s life had created physical problems. No doubt his sleep had been interrupted by his sin. He was in a state of despair, physically, spiritually, and even emotionally. In his silence

before God, his sin continually cried out before him. He was in a miserable condition. (I have often said that sinners aren't the most miserable people on earth. They desire to please the flesh; they enjoy engaging in sin. The most miserable people on earth are believers out of the will of God.)

**C. The Discipline** (4a) – [For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me.](#) David was likely in this position of despair for about a year. Day and night the Lord brought heavy conviction to his heart. While David chose to ignore his sin, God never forgot. He pursued David with a heavy hand of conviction until he confessed, repented, and sought restoration. (I am aware that we all miss the mark and come short. As we do, you can rest assured that God will convict His children because of sin. We cannot sin and get by without conviction. If you never experience the chastening hand of God, you need to examine your spiritual condition. [Heb.12:6-7 – For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.](#) <sup>[7]</sup> [If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?](#))

**D. The Drought** (4b) – [my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.](#) David lost all energy and zeal for life. His passion and desire had dried up. The joy and peace of his heart were gone. He was living in a barren wasteland, void of any blessing. David found himself in a spiritual drought, having dried up because of his sin. (Many today are struggling in a dry, desert place because of sin. Their joy and peace is gone. They have no fellowship with the Lord, and lack the blessing associated with that. I have been there, and I can tell you that I have no desire to return!)

**III. The Benefit of Confession** (5) – [I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.](#) David revealed the process involved with confession and the benefit it has for the believer. Confession requires:

**A. Recognition** (5a) – [I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid.](#) David's sin was there all along; he knew it and God knew it. However, until he was willing to acknowledge his sin and bring it before the Lord, cleansing would never come. (We too must be willing to acknowledge our sin. If there is unconfessed sin in your life, you are aware of it. I can promise you that God is aware of it. Until we are willing to recognize our sin, and openly admit that to God, our fellowship with Him will remain broken.)

**B. Repentance** (5b) – [I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD.](#) When David finally acknowledged his sin, he took the next step toward restoration – he confessed his sin and

repented of it. (Being aware of our sin is great, but that alone is never enough. There is a tremendous difference in regret and repentance. Genuine confession and repentance for sin will cause us to abandon such activity in pursuit of His righteousness. Feeling guilty for your sin does not constitute repentance; you must be willing to confess it and turn away from it toward God.)

**C. Restoration** (5c) – [and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.](#) As David did what the Lord expected and required, God was faithful to forgive. A heart of genuine repentance for sin brought forgiveness and restoration. The fellowship sin had broken was now restored. The joy and peace David lacked was now renewed. (I have never met a believer who lived a sin-free life. I am certain I never will. We will battle sin and the desires of the flesh as long as we live. However, we do not have to live in defeat because of sin. If we will admit our sin, and truly repent of that sin, God is faithful to forgive our sin and restore our fellowship with Him. [1 John 1:9-10 – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us \*our\* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.](#) <sup>[10]</sup> [If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.](#))

**Conclusion:** Falling short of what the Lord desires of us is never enjoyable, but I am thankful our failures are not final. We are prone to failure, but our Lord remains faithful to forgive and restore. If there are needs in your life, bring them to the Lord. If the Spirit has spoken to you, He is leading you to confess your failures and receive restoration. There is no need to continue in a state of spiritual despair. Come to the Lord and find the restoration you desire. If you are unsaved, the process is the same. Come admit your need for salvation, repent of your sin, and believe in the finished work of Christ as your Savior. He will pardon, and He will save!