

# Transforming Prayer

2015 Mark Beard

Text: Psalm 51 (NIV)

The problem was sin, but then, isn't that usually the problem with human beings. We may call it by other names, however it seems to come down to the same issue. We "missed the mark"-- what sin is essentially. Our best effort to be godly came up short.

" All sin ultimately is a sin against God. Sin involves: (1) falling short of God's will and ideal, (2) stepping across the line of His commandment into forbidden thought or conduct, or (3) intentionally rebelling against Him or negligently failing to do His will.

David knew he had failed in all these respects." - George O. Woods

David was a man who knew what it was to be a godly man of great faith and he was also a man who knew what it was to behave as if he was faithless and less than godly.

The Problem is stated by David in verses 1- 6, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Note the process David's prayer follows:

## I. The Plea to be Cleansed (vv.7-9).

<sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

A. Sin leaves us feeling spiritually unclean.

B. Sin leaves us feeling separated from God.

## II. The Yearning to be Restored (vv.10-12).

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

A. Everything had become unstable for David.

B. He could feel how much he was lacking.

### III. The Need to be Transformed (vv.13-19).

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. <sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. <sup>18</sup> May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

A. Repentance leads us away from our failures into God's plan for our tomorrows.

B. Repentance renews our desire to please God.

## Conclusion

The fact that God is willing to forgive us tells us He believes in our potential to serve Him.

Bart Starr was a great quarterback for the pro football champion Green Bay Packers. When his son, Bart Jr., brought home school work which was well done or a report card with good grades, Bart Starr would tape a dime to the corner as a reward and write next to it, "Good work . . . I believe in you!"

Then the day came when Bart Sr. had a terrible game against a leading opponent. It was one of his all-time worst performances. When he got home from the game that night, he found a note from Bart Jr. with a dime taped to the corner. It simply read, "Dad, I believe in you." -

Unknown