

David – Prayer of Repentance

PBC College & University Group

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What do you think when you hear of the word
"repentance" or "repent"?

What immediately comes to mind?

Nacham (H162)	to be sorry, console oneself	108 occurrences
Shub (H7725)	to turn back, return	1056 occurrences
Epistrepho (G1994)	to turn, to return	36 occurrences
Metamelomai (G3338)	to regret, repent	6 occurrences
Metanoeó (G3340)	to change one's mind or purpose	34 occurrences
Metanoia (G3341)	change of mind, repentance	22 occurrences

i) David's Sin

2 Samuel 11

- King David committed **adultery** with Bathsheba (vv. 3-4)
- King David **sent** Bathsheba's husband Uriah **to the front lines to be killed** (v.14-15).
- Uriah died in battle (v. 17)

2 Samuel 12

- God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David (v.1)
- David acknowledged his sin against God (v.13)
- David's child became very sick & died (vv. 15-19)

ii) David's Prayer

“The sentence that is basic to all penitential prayer in the Old Testament is the simple confession, ‘I have sinned.’” Psalm 51 is the fullest exposition of that sentence in the Bible.”

James L. Mays, *Psalms: Interpretation Commentary* (1994), p. 197

Prayer of repentance modelled after David's prayer in Psalms 51

- Rely on God's mercy (vv. 1-2)
- Acknowledge our sin against God (vv. 3-6)
- Accept God's cleansing (v. 7-9)
- Be restored and renewed by God's Spirit (v. 10-12)
- Be willing to teach others so they don't make the same mistake (v. 13)
- Declare God's grace (vv. 14-17)

“The prayer of Psalm 51 confesses not simply a few sins, it confesses sinfulness. It concerns the condition of our sinful self, not just accepting responsibility for a particular transgression. It uses words like, “sin, iniquity, and transgression,” to explain what is wrong, but basically it is making the point that “I am a sinner. My problem is not just the need of pardon for a particular wrong but deliverance from the predicament of myself.””

Douglas Scalice, “Create in Me a Clean Heart.” Brewster Baptist Church. Accessed January 25, 2018.

<http://www.brewsterbaptistchurch.org/create-in-me-a-clean-heart/>

Discussion Questions

- As you read and re-read Psalms 51, what do you find there that you can identify with the most?

Saul/Paul

- **1 Timothy 1:12-16**

Paul acknowledges he was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor (v.13).

He also refers to himself as the foremost of all sinners (v.15)

The Pharisee and the Publican

- **Luke 18:9-14**
- i) Which one relied on God's mercy and which one relied on his own works/deeds?
- ii) Which one went home justified?

Reflection Questions

- Is there a conviction in your own heart about a hidden sin that you need to repent of?
- Do you find you haven't been completely honest with God?
- Are you willing to accept the deep cleansing that David desired?

References:

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