



**Sermon Series: Dealing with Temptation**

**To be used with Session 5: Recovering from a Fall after Temptation**

**Sermon Title Possibilities: The Restoration after Temptation**

**Scripture: Psalm 32:1-7**

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the Bible study “Dealing with Temptation” this sermon teaches us that even believers fall and mess up. But when we mess up, we can still get up. God’s forgiveness applies to our past, present, and even future sins. While we should never seek to justify our sin, we do not have to wallow in our guilt. The Lord loves us. When we confess our sins, He will forgive and restore us.

**Introduction:** Most commentary writers suggest that Psalm 32 and Psalm 51 were written after David’s adulterous and murderous fall. The full story is in 2 Samuel 11 and 12. David committed adultery with Bathsheba and impregnated her, he sought to get her husband to sleep with her so that the husband would think it was his child, but when that didn’t work, David conspired to have Uriah murdered on the battlefield. The prophet Nathan confronted David with a story and David’s heart was struck with conviction. These two Psalms show us what it looks like to pray with genuine remorse over and repentance of our sin. The text teaches us three ways to be restored after we’ve fallen in sin.

**1. Be Living under the Covering for Sin (vv. 1-2)**

Jesus is the covering for sin. John said that He is the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Isaiah said that He was pierced and crushed for our transgressions and He was punished for our iniquity (Isa. 53:5-6). Paul said that He became sin for us so that we could become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). Peter said that He bore our sins in His body on a tree (1 Pet. 2:24). What the Lord did for David because of his contrition and confession, he does for us through Christ Jesus. Even after salvation, our “transgression is forgiven,” and our “sin is covered.”

**2. Be Living in the Confessing of Sin (vv. 3-5)**

David communicated that when he covered his sin; he was crushed by conviction. That’s the thing about being saved, we can’t become comfortable with sin because the Holy Spirit constantly convicts us. David said his bones were brittle and he groaned unceasingly. He was downcast and depleted. But then, he

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confessed his sin. When he confessed his sin, he experienced the peace of the Lord. The same is true for us. Proverbs 28:13 teaches that concealing and covering our sin results in not prospering but confessing and forsaking our sin brings mercy from the Lord. When we hold in our sin, our sin holds us down. But, when we confess our sins, our God lifts us up (1 John 1:9). May the Lord help us to walk in constant repentance and faith.

### **3. Be Living with the Companion of Saints (vv. 6-7)**

David shifted from testifying to teaching. He spoke of releasing prayers to God (v. 6) and receiving protection from God (v. 7). The Lord is our helper (Ps. 54:4; 118:7-8). The Lord is our hiding place (Ps. 119:114), and the Lord is our horn of salvation (Ps. 18:1-3). These passages, along with Psalm 32:6-7, teach us that the Lord is our companion. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). It is imperative that we never leave nor forsake Him. The text teaches us to live with Him not only through prayer (v. 6) but also through praise (v.7). We see this in the phrase, “You surround me with joyful shouts of deliverance.” When we fall (not if we fall), we must praise Him for deliverance—not only from the penalty of sin—but also for deliverance from the power of sin.

**Conclusion:** The late John Claypool used to share a story about a 19-year-old boy who left home on bad terms with his father. He went to live in the big city of Chicago. After a while, he fell on hard times. He was sleeping in parks and at shelters. He had left home after grossly disrespecting his father, so he was too scared and too prideful to return home. One night he called his mother and told her to ask Daddy if I can come home. She said, “You just come home, I will handle your daddy.” He said, “I really left wrong and disrespecting him badly.” Then he said, “If Daddy say I can come home, put a ribbon around the tree in front of the house. If I see the ribbon, I will get off at the next train stop, but if not, I will keep going.” The young man rode the train all the way from Chicago to Meridian, Mississippi. When the train was passing his house, he didn’t see one ribbon on the tree, he saw ribbons all over the tree. His father gladly received him back home. That’s how it is for us. No matter how bad we’ve messed up, God loves us and welcomes us back into fellowship with Him.

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