



# + YOU

Fall 2024  
Thrive: Living on Purpose

**Sermon Title:** God Faithfully Forgives and Restores

**To be used with Session 3:** Purpose Restored

**The Point:** Through Jesus we can be forgiven and restored to the purpose for which He created us.

**Scripture:** Psalm 51:1-13

**Connection with the Study:** To complement the Bible study “Purpose Restored,” this sermon focuses on the prayer of David after he was confronted with the weight of his sin by the prophet Nathan. David was far from perfect, and he thought that the terrible depth of his sin would remain hidden and not affect anyone. Yet nothing is hidden from God, He sees all our sin and knows the depth of our disobedience. Yet His healing and restoration are complete and final. How is it that David, sinful as he was, could be referred to as a man after God’s own heart? It is only because God’s restoration can fully clean and restore even the most wretched soul.

**Introduction:** If you have ever been around a swimming pool, you likely know the scent of chlorine. Chlorine in a pool is essential! Without it, the water gets dirty beyond use, and the pool that is designed for swimming is no longer a place for swimming. I have seen outdoor pools uncovered after sitting all winter, sometimes after sitting for years, only to reveal a dark, murky slime underneath. Yet even the filthiest water can be cleansed through the use of chlorine—sometimes a lot of chlorine! With enough chlorine, what was once filthy becomes sparkling, clean, and desirable for swimming. Similarly, there is no heart that can become so unclean that God’s grace cannot restore it to how it should be. No matter how deep our sin or how long it has been hidden, God’s salvation is definite and His restoration complete.

## 1. Repentance precedes restoration (Ps. 51:1-4).

“Be gracious to me O God” is David’s cry that opens this prayer of repentance. David was fully aware of his sin, and stated in these opening verses that he was “conscious” of his sin, that his sin was “always before” him, and that he knew he was guilty when he was born. David gave no excuses or words of situational ethics to explain that his actions weren’t really all that bad. He instead admitted his failures. David could try to remind God that he was generally a good person, or that he was the only one brave enough to face Goliath years ago. Yet such reasoning is futile. What we see is genuine repentance, an acknowledgment of David’s sinful nature, and his pleas for mercy and restoration from God. David’s sin had made him spiritually sick, and only God’s healing, forgiveness, and restoration could bring a

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cure. It is in verse 2 that David called upon God to wash away his guilt “completely” and cleanse him from sin. David knew he couldn’t get out of sin alone. He was fully aware of the darkness of sin, repented of it before God, and asked for the cleansing only God can provide.

## **2. God’s restoration is complete (Ps. 51:5-9).**

In verse 7 David asked God to “wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.” This verse provides for us a beautiful promise of cleansing and renewal. When we repent, when we acknowledge our sin before God and turn away from that sin, God will not just clean us up a bit, but He will wash us fully. In verse 9 David continued in asking God to “blot out” all his guilt. When we repent of our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us fully and completely (1 John 1:9). The guilt of sin that we carried with us is no longer ours to bear. It is clean, gone, removed, and no longer present within us as God completely cleanses us in righteousness and holiness. The act of repentance is difficult, as bringing our hidden and wretched sins to God reminds us of how broken we are in sin. Yet the free-flowing cleansing that follows heals us, restores us fully, and brings a freedom only available in Christ.

## **3. A restored heart is a joyful heart (Ps. 51:10-15).**

David was a hero of Israel who acknowledged his faith and trust in God. Yet as king, his sin became deep and dreadful. He had committed adultery and sent a valiant man to his certain death in battle. Knowing his sin, he then worked to cover it all up and hide the truth from all who would know. But God cannot be fooled, and the truth will always be revealed. We must remain on guard for sin that creeps into our life, sin that twists our minds away from God and manipulates the truth. David’s prayer was that his heart would once again be made clean, that the joy of his salvation would be restored, and through this restoration he would see sinners turned to God through his example. It should always be our prayer that our life would reflect the beauty and glory of Jesus, that His cleansing would be the center of all we do and all we are, and that because of His life in us, our words and actions would unashamedly pour out His praise.

**Conclusion:** Being a “good person,” having a church background, or thinking that our sins are too hidden to affect our daily walk are no substitute for the cleansing of the heart within us. Trying to live in these things in our own strength will keep us ineffective and sidelined from the work God has for us, which is exactly as Satan would have it. Because of Jesus, we do not have to “try harder” to be righteous. We only have to call out to Him, acknowledge our sin, and accept the healing that He brings. In Jesus we can be truly healed, truly forgiven, truly unashamed, and truly free.

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