



9/3/25

Well... this is a crazy week... trying to get all the stuff ready for the women's study that is starting in just a few weeks! I've been so excited for this study for well over a year. I'm really pumped that it's so close. It's called In His Steps ~ A Walk of Worship. Can you guess who it's about??? I promise you... it's not a squirrel. Hahaha

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalms 32

This is a psalm of repentance... for all the times I present my members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness rather than to the Lord and His righteousness (Romans 6:19). I need to pray a psalm of repentance daily, or I will be "hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13). Truly my flesh is always drifting into that deceit. But the Lord is faithful to forgive. Praise His name!

Vs. 1-2 ~ I LOVE that this starts out with blessing God for His mercy instead of shaming me for my sin. He forgives my defiant rebellion. With His own blood, He covers me for falling short of His glory. He does not count my sins against me. He holds no grudge.

What do I do with this next part, though? ~ Blessed is the one "in whose spirit there is no deceit"? Am I negated because I know I have some deceit in my heart, probably way more than I even realize? It's really important that I look at the whole of scripture to understand things like this. First, this whole psalm is about repentance because of sin. So this can't mean that I never sin. Second, Romans 7 gives me more understanding about this... Sin dwells in my flesh, but my spirit is made pure because of Jesus. "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin" (Romans 7:24-25). God purifies the spirit of my mind. My job is to set my mind on Him.

Vs. 3-5 ~ God's forgiveness is complete. And my repentance is necessary. Keeping silent about

my sin will eat away at my soul. It affects all of me. I can't hide it.

When I stay in the deceit of my sin, the Lord's hand is heavy upon me. Why? Is He cruel? Not at all. He knows that sin will crush me. He loves me. He wants to free me from my sin, and when I ignore it, He draws me back to Him. His purpose is for my good. If He were indifferent to me, He would just let me drown in my sin. If He hated me, He would just destroy me. But He puts pressure on me to wake me up and help me repent... to restore relationship with me. It is because He loves me that He disciplines me. Refusing to repent makes me waste away and groan and shrivel up. God wants to save me from that.

But when I acknowledge my sin to the Lord, and don't keep silent or cover up my sin, HE covers it with forgiveness and mercy. He faithfully forgives me. God is far more compassionate than I am. He never says to me when I come to Him in repentance, "Talk to the hand." No. His hand was pierced for my transgressions. When I look at His nail scarred hands, I see mercy. Praise Your name!

Vs. 6-7 ~ After speaking of God's mercy, David the psalmist says, "Therefore let everyone who is godly offer a prayer to You at a time when You may be found." Therefore, let the GODLY offer a prayer? This psalm is about repentance. How can I see myself as godly? It's because I don't make myself godly. GOD DOES. Because of His mercy, He makes me godly. My job is to keep seeking Him and talking to Him. His compassion and mercy are so great that they don't just acquit me, but they purify me!

"Surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him." As I cry out to God, the rushing waters of sin can't reach me. He is my hiding place. He preserves and protects me from troubles that would otherwise drown me. He surrounds me with shouts of deliverance. This is SHOCKING!!! How incredible is it that this psalm of repentance is more about God's mercy and compassion and protection and rescue than it is about my guilt??? How could He love me so much that He not only forgives me, but He hides me in His shelter, in His presence? I'm in awe.

Vs. 8-9 ~ First, God forgives. Then He makes me pure. Then He rescues me and protects me... and now God speaks... "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you." God Himself leads me and teaches me so that I don't go back to the things that made me waste away and groan and shrivel up. He leads me as a Good Shepherd. He does not come behind me like a cowboy with a whip. His eye is on me... That means He's always with me. I'm always safe in His presence. He cares so much that He Himself shows me the way.

I was praying about this the other day. Why is it when I'm feeling the rush of waters I don't necessarily "feel" His presence? I thought, what is it that I'm expecting Him to do to show me that He's there? And then I remembered God's conversation with Elijah from 1 Kings 19, when Elijah thought God had abandoned him. God showed Elijah that His voice was not in the wind or the earthquake or the fire, but a soft whisper. I need to stop panicking and listen for the whisper... His word whispered into my soul. Then I can see... He was there the whole time.

God says, "Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you." God doesn't want my motivation to follow Him be out of obligation, thinking I have no choice... like a horse or mule being led with bit and bridle. He wants me to follow Him because I love Him. Don't say, "I have to learn the hard way," which is just code for, "I want to do what I want, and I want to do it now." But recognize His mercy and love and shepherding heart. Follow because He's my hope. Surrender to His authority. Let relationship with Him be my greatest pleasure. Trust His protection. O Lord, may it be so!

Vs. 10-11 ~ Those who trust the Lord get to experience His covenant loyalty, divine, unconditional love. Those who reject the Lord will experience much sorrow... maybe not in the moment, but in the long run. The deception of sin always catches up with us when we are set on that sin, no matter who we are. So instead of being glad in sin and celebrating the indulgence of selfish desires which will lead only to sorrow, I pray that I will be glad in my merciful, gracious, loving, protecting, kind God. I can shout for joy because HE makes me righteous. HE makes my heart right. Bless the Lord who forgives, redeems, sanctifies, and loves me. Wow. What an awesome prayer of repentance! What hope! Thank You, YAHWEH!