

Summer of Psalms
Psalm 51:1-12
Prayer of Repentance and Restoration - Part II

Introduction and Review

- Would you turn in your Bibles with me to **Psalm 51 (New Large Print Bibles)**...
- **Today** is our second week looking at this **Psalm of David**.
- And as I said last week, it serves as **model prayer** for God's people when we have sinned against Him and are seeking to **repent and be restored**.
- Now for those who were **not here** last week and for those who don't remember much about last week.
- **We need to begin with a review of...**

The Context of David's Prayer

- **Psalm 51** includes a **heading that gives us the context**.

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- David took Bathsheba, **a married woman**, and had sexual relationship with her.
- He committed **adultery**.
- And the immediate result, **the consequence**, was that Bathsheba became **pregnant**.
- David then tried to **cover up** his sins by bringing **Bathsheba's** husband **Uriah** home from battle.
- **Uriah** was part of **Israel's** army **fighting against** the **Ammonites**.
- And **David** wanted **him** to **lie with** his wife so everyone would think the baby was **Uriah's**.
- But **Uriah refused to go home** while the ark of the Lord and his fellow soldiers were on the front lines of battle.
- So, David then arranged to have **him killed**.
- He sent **Uriah** back to the battle with orders to put him on the front lines and withdraw support.
- Uriah was killed and David **quickly married Bathsheba**.
- So, David not only falls to the sexual sin of adultery, but he tries to cover it up with **murder**.
- **God, However, will not let David's sin remain hidden**.
- He sends **Nathan**.
- **Nathan tells David** a story of a **rich man and a poor man**.
- The **rich man** had many sheep; the poor man had **one ewe lamb**.
- And when **a traveler** came to stay with him **the rich man**,
- Instead of killing and serving him one of his **own sheep**, he took the poor man's only lamb.
- When David hears this story, **which he believes to be true**, he is outraged.
- He says that the rich man deserves death.

- And then **Nathan** says to David, “**You are the Man**”
- David’s **sin is revealed** and in **2 Samuel 12:13-14** we find both David’s and the Lord’s response...

³ David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.” (2 Samuel 12:13-14)

- **Last week** we talked about the fact that God **put away or passed over David’s sin**.
- We noted that because of his sin David **and others** suffered great consequences.
- Not only did the child, conceived in sin, die.
- But David’s family was torn apart with rape, violence and rebellion.
- However, David who committed adultery and murder **didn’t die**.
- Even though the law prescribed the death penalty for both adultery and murder.
- David didn’t receive the just **consequences he deserved**.
- So how could **God pass over, put away** David’s sin?
- Because the **context** of **Psalm 51** is not just the story of what happened with David and Bathsheba.
- The context of **Psalm 51** and of the entire Bible **centers on the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ**.
- We see this in **Romans 3:25**, where the **Apostle Paul** writes...

²⁵ [Christ] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (Romans 3:25)

- **2 Samuel 12:13** says that God put away or passed over **David’s sin**.
- **And in Romans 3:25** gives us the context of how and why God was able to do that.
- And that is, for those who trust in Christ (both before and after he came) ...
- Jesus Christ is our **propitiation** – He is our atonement, our sacrifice, in death he took our place,
- He paid the penalty for **David’s sin and for the sin of all who would trust in Him**.
- David trusted in **God’s promises that pointed to Jesus**.
- And we must trust in **God’s promises fulfilled in Jesus**.
- And because of that David and all who put their faith in the finished work of Jesus, can be forgiven.
- We can pray the prayer of **repentance and restoration** we find in **Psalm 51**.
- **So that’s the review of the context of David’s Prayer**.

- Now we turn to...

The Content of David's Prayer

- Follow along as I read the first 12 verses of Psalm 51...

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. (Psalms 51:1-12)

- As I studied this Psalm, I saw **six things** I'd like to point out regarding David prayer.
- Last week we **examined the first two**.
- This week I want to quickly review those **first two**...
- And then **add 4 more**.
- **First, as we saw last week....**

1. David Prays for Mercy

- In **verse 1** we writes (he prays)...

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. (Psalms 51:1)

- David cries out **for mercy**.
- He knew that because of his sin **he deserved death**.
- His only **hope** was God's **MERCY**...
- And so, not based on **who he is or what he has done**...
- But based on **God's steadfast love and abundant mercy**...
- **David** cries out **for God to grant him forgiveness**,
- **To blot out (erase, remember no more) his transgressions**.
- David begins where we all should when we sin against the Lord, throwing ourselves on His GREAT MERCY!

- Then, again as we saw last week...

2. David Prays for Cleansing

- Verse 2...

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! (Psalms 51:2)

- David's sin has made him dirty, unclean, unacceptable to the LORD.
- He carried the stain of sin.
- And so, he cries out for washing for, **cleansing**.
- In **verse 7**... he adds...

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalms 51:7)

- Remember it was a **Hyssop** branch that was used by the priests to sprinkle blood on a house that had a disease in it.
- This was done to declare it clean.
- And David is crying out to God as his ultimate priest that he would cleanse him completely.
- That he would take away the stain, the disease of sin.
- That, he would wash him in such a way that he would be whiter than snow.
- And we too (like David) can be cleansed from the stain of our sin.
- **And how does that take place.**
- The Apostle John wrote **1 John 1:7-9**

⁷ ...and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7-9)

- It's only by the blood of Jesus Christ that David and we are cleansed (forgiven) from all sin.
- God passed over sin in the OT (David's Sin) only because he knew that one Day Jesus' blood would be shed for the sins he was passing over.
- And because God provides **cleansing from all sin through Jesus Christ**.
- We can **and must** go to the LORD confessing our sin...
- Knowing that he has promised **to forgive and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**.

- And that's what David does **next in Psalm 51...**
- **This is where the review ends.**
- Last week we saw his prayer for **mercy and cleansing** and then we find...

3. David's Prayer of Confession

- **Verse 3... David confesses...**

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. (Psalms 51:3)

- That word **transgressions** means to **rebel against**.
- David confesses not that he **made a mistake** or even **did something wrong**.
- He admits that his sin **is in fact** rebellion against God.
- And he knows depths of this rebellion, for it is ever before him.
- This has certainly been my experience.
- And I believe, it is the experience of **every true believer when we sin**.
- We know we have rebelled against God, and our sin is ever before us.
- Because God's Spirit **brings conviction**.
- **Our loving heavenly father will not leave us alone**.
- We can't get away **with** our sin or **from** our sin,
- The **guilt and shame** are ever present **and overwhelming**.
- People who don't truly understand **God's grace, mercy and forgiveness...**
- Think that **these things** give Christians **a free pass to sin**.
- They think that **we believe all a Christian** need do is confess and we're forgiven.
- **So why not just keep sinning?**
- But what they **fail to grasp** is the pain, the sorrow and the **separation that sin brings**.
- If you **claim to be a Christian** and you think you can **go on rebelling against Christ**
- That all you need to do is ask for God's forgiveness...
- Then let me be so bold as to say, **YOU ARE NOT A CHRISTIAN**.
- You have **never experienced relationship with God**.
- **You have never expired the conviction of the Holy Spirit**.
- And therefore, you have **no idea** what it's like for your sin to bring separation between you and the LORD.
- David wrote in **Psalms 34:8**

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! (Psalms 34:8)

- As we see in this verse and as we saw over the last two weeks in **Psalm 23**.
- **David had been blessed by the mercy and goodness of the LORD**.
- And that's what **he wants to experience again**.
- He wants to **take refuge in the LORD** but because of his sin he cannot.

- His sin is ever before him.
- **And so, he confesses in Verse 4...**

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight... (Psalms 51:4)

- This doesn't mean **Bathsheba and Uriah** and the baby weren't hurt.
- It means that what makes sin, sin is that it is against God.
- It is disobedience to your creator, and for the Christian, your loving heavenly Father.
- Hurting another human being is bad. It's horrible.
- But that's not the ultimate horror of sin.
- Sin is an attack on a transgression (rebellion against) the infinitely holy God.
- **And notice David fully admits his sin and** he doesn't make excuses.
- He doesn't say, "But God have you seen **Bathsheba**, she was so beautiful."
- I couldn't help myself.
- He doesn't blame God for his sin, which surprisingly so many people try to do.
- He doesn't say, "God, you made me this way, why did you give me such strong sexual desires."
- There is no self-justification. **No defensiveness.**
- And notice he calls sin sin, it's not a mistake, an error in judgement **it is EVIL!**
- When we confess, **we can't make excuses**, we can't **gloss over our sin**,
- It is outright rebellion against God, and **it is EVIL!**
- David then continues **in the second half of verse 4...**

so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (Psalms 51:4)

- David says, LORD I've cried out for mercy, for forgiveness, for cleansing...
- I have confessed my sin,
- And as part of my confession, **I acknowledge that you are totally completely justified in whatever you do to me.**
- David is saying that no matter **what God chooses to do to him...**
- God is justified; God will be blameless even if he were to kill David or cast him into the pits of hell.
- David is owning up to his sin.
- Saying he is ready to face **any consequences the LORD chooses.**
- He then adds to his **confession by saying in verse 5...**

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Psalms 51:5)

- Some have said that this means that **David was conceived due to some kind of sexual sin.**
- But it's much more likely that David is speaking of the sin nature that he and everyone is born with.

- And as I mentioned, there are those who would use the fact that they were born with a sin nature to make excuses for their sin.
- **God, you made me this way what do you expect?**
- **But David does the opposite.**
- For him the fact that **he committed adultery and murder** is an expression of something worse:
- He's not making **excuses** he's confessing that **he is by nature a sinner**.
- **In fact, in verses 6** he makes it clear that God **has done his part to keep him from sin**.

⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. (Psalms 51:6)

- God delights in truth.
- And **God has taught his truth to David**.
- To his inward being **to his secret heart**.
- David knows that **he has been blessed** with **knowledge** and wisdom from God.
- And what he is saying is that his sin, is so much worse,
- because he had been given so much truth from God.
- **This is a confession that all believers need to make when we sin.**
- Because we have been given **the Spirit of God the Spirit of Wisdom**.
- And we know what we **are doing is wrong**.
- There have been times in my life, **I am sad to say**, that when faced with temptation...
- **The Spirit is there**, and he is pointing out just how **wrong this sin would be**.
- He **reveals to me the truth** and gives me **wisdom to follow that truth**.
- And yet **I ignore his wisdom**, I rebel against the **Spirit of God**, and I give in to sin.
- Oh, that I, **that we** would instead listen to the truth in our inward being,
- and follow the wisdom in the secret heart.
- Thus, avoiding sin and its **terrible painful consequences!**
- So David confesses His sin...
- He admits he has rebelled against God, that he has done what is evil.
- **But he still has hope**.
- Because of **God's steadfast love and abundant Mercy...**

4. David Prays for Joy

- **We looked at verse 7 earlier...**

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalms 51:7)

- David has asked for **cleansing in verse 2**,
- and now **he's reiterating that request** and declaring the power of the Lord to cleanse him,
- wash him, make him whiter than snow.
- God it's in your power (not mine) to remove the stain that sin has brought to my life.
- **And knowing God's power to cleanse, to forgive, and transform...**
- **David continues in verse 8...**

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. (Psalms 51:8)

- **As we saw in verse 3**, David's sin is ever before him.
- Because of his sin, **his relationship with God and God's goodness is missing** from his life.
- He is suffering!
- Have you ever heard the expression, ***the weight of sin***
- Have you experienced the heaviness, the guilt, the pain, the suffering of sin?
- **That's what David is experiencing.**
- There is a great heaviness on his heart, an overwhelming sense of guilt that weighs on him.
- The pain of what he's done is crushing him,
- His bones feel as if they have been broken by God.
- And He cries out to **hear joy and gladness**.
- Not even to experience it yet, **but just to hear about it**.
- That word **hear** could also be translated, **perceive**.
- David is praying that **the joy and gladness** that has left him would begin to return.
- That he (once cleansed of his sins) could **perceive** the joy of the Lord once more.
- And if you jump down to **verse 12** you will see that he **also prays for joy**.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. (Psalms 51:12)

- Again, because of his sin, David's relationship with the LORD has been broken.
- He's lost the joy of God's salvation.
- The Joy that God saved Him from His sins.
- And so, he prays that God would restore his JOY,
- That God would bring back the joy he once experienced in salvation and relationship with the LORD.
- David gave in to sexual temptation, where I assume he thought he would find some kind **joy and satisfaction**.
- And even though it was probably pleasurable for short time, **his joy in the LORD was removed**.
- And he cries for **its restoration!**

- David gave up his Joy in the LORD for a **fleeting moment of sexual pleasure**.
- And all he wants now is to **experience the joy of the LORD once again**.
- David also knows that the only way to sustain **the joy of God's salvation...**
- Is to remain in **relationship with Him...**
- So, he prays that the Lord uphold him with a **willing Spirit. (his own spirit be willing)**
- A spirit that **submits to the will and word of God**
- A Spirit that will not give into temptation and thus lead to another season of joylessness.
- This is so important for us to grab hold of and to believe and to apply.
- This is why one of our core values is **Seeking our Joy in the Lord**.
- We must understand that **true joy and satisfaction** come only in relationship with the LORD.
- That giving into **temptation, falling to sin** will remove the joy we have in the LORD.
- Do you want to experience **true lasting JOY in your life**.
- **Then seek your joy, not in the things of this world, the fleeting pleasures of sin.**
- **Do not give into temptation,**
- But instead, fight with all of your might to keep the source of true Joy... **the LORD God**.
- I wish we had time to talk more about **how to fight for joy**.
- **But I do have a book to recommend on the subject.**
- If you are struggling with overcoming sin in your life.
- I would recommend John Piper's book **"When I don't desire God, How to Fight for Joy"**
- So, David prays for his **Joy to be restored**. And then...

5. David Prays for Renewal

- We looked at verse 9 last week when David prays for Mercy...

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. (Psalms 51:9)

- David reiterates his desire for God to turn away from and blot out his sin.
- But he doesn't just ask for **mercy and forgiveness**.
- He wants **transformation, renewal**, in verse 10 he prays...

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalms 51:10)

- David wants a **clean heart...**
- Again, he is praying for cleansing, **to be pure before the LORD**.
- And notice he prays that **the LORD** creates that clean **heart within him**.
- He's asking for a **renewed heart**, that the LORD would renew and clean, transform who he is.
- It's not enough to confess your sin, to pray for mercy and even cleansing.
- If cleansing doesn't mean **change**, Lord, I want **to change, help me change**.
- I can't do it on my own...

- God, by **the power of your Spirit**, renew a right spirit within me.
- That word **renew means to repair**, to **fix**.
- Lord fix my Spirit.
- David wants his Spirit to be right with God.
- He wants his spirit to be **aligned with God's Spirit**.
- He is **passionately committed** to being changed by God.
- **This is key for us to understand.**
- When God **extends his loving mercy into our lives**.
- When he **cleanses us and forgives our sin**.
- When he **restores our Joy**.
- The result should be that we are **committed to renewal, to being repaired by the LORD**.
- So that in the future we do not continue to fall to temptation over and over again.
- But instead, **we allow God to change/set right our spirit, align our Spirit with His**.
- So, David has prayed for **mercy, for cleansing...**
- He has **confessed** his sin and prayed for **joy and renewal**.
- And finally...

6. David Prays for Reconciliation

- Verse 11

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. (Psalms 51:11)

- Some people use this verse to say that **people can lose their salvation**.
- That someone who is saved, **because of their sin**, can be cast away from God.
- **The Holy Spirit can be taken away.**
- **But I don't think that's what David is saying.**
- He is talking about **what he deserves** and what **he is experiencing** and asking God (in love and mercy) **not to allow it to continue**.
- David knows he **doesn't deserve** to be in the LORD's presence.
- He knows that he **doesn't deserve** God's Holy Spirit to be in his life.
- He's experienced these things in the past.
- He's felt God's presence he has experienced the **power of God's Spirit**.
- But because of **his sin** he is not experiencing them now.
- And he **wants them back**.
- He wants to be **reconciled to the LORD**.
- **He wants to taste and see that the LORD is good.**

- So, he prays for reconciliation.
- Lord remove my sin that I might **come into and feel your presence again**.
- Lord have **mercy on my soul** that I might again experience **the power of your Spirit** in my life.
- Lord I can't go on without you in my life!
- **Don't leave me, I cry out for reconciliation.**
- And this too is something we should all pray for...
- As we come to the Lord in repentance, confessing our sins we should cry out for reconciliation.
- That we might once more experience the Spirit of the God, the presence of the Lord in our lives.
- Amen.
- So that's basically the end of David's prayer **of repentance and restoration**.
- The rest of the chapter (13-19) mainly deals with what David will do and be when God answers his prayer.
- **So, I'll leave you to look at that on your own, very good stuff.**
- But what I want us to do in these final moments is to think again about what David prayed
- **And also what he didn't pray.**
- I said at the beginning that **Psalms 51** is a **model prayer** for those who have sinned against God and are seeking to repent and be restored.
- This is something that we all need, **because we all sin!**
- But what is far better is to avoid, **reject sin** in the first place.
- So, I want to end our time with two final points, that I pray will help us be victorious over sin.
- First, I want us to look at...

The Cause of David's Sin

- What was it that caused David to **commit adultery and murder**?
- If we can see that, I believe it will help us overcome sin ourselves.
- And I think the answer is found in what took place before David's sin and in what he prays after he sins.
- Remember the context of David's prayer. ***A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.***
- The context of David's prayer was **His sexual sin with Bathsheba**.
- But it's very interesting that nowhere in **Psalms 51** does David pray or say anything about sex?
- But wasn't sexual temptation the **cause of all his problems**?
- Didn't it lead to the sins of adultery and murder.
- So why, in **Psalms 51**, isn't David crying out for God to **take away this sexual temptation**?
- Why isn't he praying for **men to hold him accountable**?
- Why isn't he praying for **sex-free thoughts**?

- Well, it seems that David knew that **sexual temptation and sexual sin** were not main or the **original cause of his sin**.
- The problem wasn't David's **sex drive**.
- The problem was **David's separation from God**.
- Earlier I said that **sin causes us to be separated from God**.
- But the converse is just as true **separation from God causes us to sin**.
- **David has sinned...**
- And he knows what the problem was...
- It was because instead of walking with the LORD, **he was walking on his roof**.
- If we go back to the **context of David's sin...**
- In **2 Samuel 11:1-2** we read...

¹ In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ² It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. (2 Samuel 11:1-2)

- It was **"the time when kings go out to battle"** David should have been leading his men;
- he should have been battling the enemies of the LORD.
- But instead, he chose to take it easy, **to hang out on his roof**.
- **Although not explicitly stated** this implies that **David is not walking with the LORD**.
- He is not where God wants him to be, **fighting with his men**.
- And the result is **He's wasting time walking on the roof**, looking for stuff to do.
- Looking for a **diversion**, *looking for some entertainment*. And what he finds is **SIN!**
- **What we must understand is...**
- **David and you and I give in to sexual or other types of sin because we are not walking with the LORD.**
- **Our external sins are a reflection of an internal heart that is not in relationship with God.**
- David knows this...
- That's why he's not praying for the removal of **sexual temptation**.
- He's praying for a **restoration of the joy of the LORD's salvation**.
- He wants to **experience Joy not in the world (in sexual sin) but in the LORD**.
- He's praying for a **renewed (repaired) a right spirit**.
- A Spirit that's in alignment with the LORD and spirit that is walking with the LORD.
- He's praying for a clean heart, a heart that can enter into God's presence.
- He's praying for the Spirit of **God not to leave him**.
- **Bottom LINE He's praying for and renewed relationship with the LORD.**
- **Because he knows that it is only in relationship with the LORD that he will overcome his sin.**

- **And this is how we must pray!**
- David is showing us, by the way he prays, what the real need for those who sin sexually (or any other way).
- He is showing us (and this is our last point) ...

The Cure for Our Sin

- We touched on this already **but let me emphasize it again.**
- The real need, the way we avoid and overcome sin,
- Is by seeking our joy and satisfaction and renewal and restoration in relationship with the LORD.
- **By walking in relationship with the LORD!**
- As Paul writes to **the Galatians...**

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16)

- **If we walk by the Spirit**, that is submit to the Spirit of God in our lives.
- Maintaining a relationship with the LORD, then we will not fall into sin.
- ***We will not gratify the desires of the flesh.***
- If we walk by the Spirit, then we can stand firm when sexual or any other temptation comes our way.
- That doesn't mean that we don't have people to hold us accountable.
- It doesn't mean that we can't pray for God to give us relief from the things that tempt us.
- But David knew and I know, and I want you to know,
- that no matter what sin you are struggling with...
- You will not achieve real lasting victory unless your relationship with the LORD is more important than your sin.
- Until you like David can cry out and mean from the bottom of your heart...

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. (Psalms 51:11)

- Until you can say... Lord you and the joy you bring into my life are far far better than any temporal sinful pleasures this world has to offer.
- Until your relationship with the LORD is more important to you than your relationship with your sin... **YOU WILL NEVER HAVE VICTORY!**
- And how do we ensure that our relationship with the Lord is more important than our sin.
- Or put another way, **how do we continue to walk by the Spirit**, so we don't fulfill the desires of our flesh?
- Well, let me leave you with a few verses that I believe gives us instruction and encouragement in maintaining and restoring our relationship with God.

- First is **1 John 2:1**

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin...

- John says he writes these things (this spirit inspired letter) to the church so that they may not sin.
- And I think **that can be applied to all Scripture**.
- **God's word** when read and obeyed, diligently and daily, helps us to maintain a relationship with the LORD, it helps us to not Sin.
- So, first our relationship with the LORD, **is maintained through spending time in His word**.
- And I would add to that spending time in Prayer.
- To maintain your relationship with the LORD it is crucial that you spend time in fellowship with HIM.
- And God has given us the gift and privilege of entering his presence through prayer.
- In fact, Jesus tells us that prayer is an important weapon against overcoming temptation.
- In **Matthew 26:41** he says to his disciples...

⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41)

- So, we can maintain our relationship with the LORD, overcoming temptation and sin by spending time in his presence, in His WORD and Prayer.
- But what do we do if we sin?
- Well back to **1 John 2:1**, the apostle writes...

But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 John 2:1)

- Here John acknowledges that even though he (and more importantly the Lord) does not want us to sin.
- The fact of the matter is, while we live in this world in our fleshly body, sin is still a possibility...
- But if we sin, John says, **we have an advocate with the Father**.
- Yes, there are consequences for our sin.
- Yes, sin damages our relationship with the LORD,
- But that doesn't mean our relationship is destroyed.
- It doesn't mean **we cannot come before the LORD**.
- Because we have an advocate with **our father**.
- In our unrighteousness and sin, our advocate is **Jesus Christ the righteous**.
- Jesus, goes before us and advocates for us,
- Therefore, if we sin, our relationship with God can **be restored by Jesus Christ**.
- Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Cure for Our SIN!

- Because as we saw in **Romans 3** and as **1 John 1:2** says...

² He is the propitiation for our sins...

- **Jesus is the propitiation, he provides atonement, payment for our sins.**
- Therefore, if we continue to trust in him,
- Even when we have sinned, we can go to the father in prayer.
- We can quickly turn to Him, even using Psalm 51 as a model.
- We can confess our sin and cry out to the LORD for Mercy, Cleansing, Joy, Reconciliation and Renewal.
- So, the cure for our sin, **is to maintain our relationship with the LORD.**
- And **we do that through spending time in his word.**
- **Through spending time in prayer or fellowship with the LORD.**
- And if we do sin, not waiting, not continuing in our sin...
- But knowing that because of Jesus Christ (our advocate) we can go before the Lord,
- Repenting of our sin and seeking restoration in our relationship with HIM!

Would you pray with me!