

Conviction Leading to Revival

Psalm 51:1 -19

Scripture Reading

Psalm 51: 1 – 6

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 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. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart

Purpose: Every Christ follower must move to confession and repentance when they sense the conviction of the Holy Spirit to receive true forgiveness of sin.

Introduction

Today, I begin a three-part series for Lent leading up to Easter. **As of today, we are 27 days into Lent with 13 days remaining.** For some reason, Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent. Our series is entitled Repentance – Remembrance – Renewal. This morning we will look at conviction leading to repentance that leads to revival.

I sense that many Christ followers take for granted the ministry of the Holy Spirit when it comes to the act of conviction. God created every man and woman in His image and with a conscience to determine what is right or wrong. When we sin against God and our conscience, if our conscience is still sensitive to the Holy Spirit and not seared by ignoring and quenching its work, we feel and know that we have done something wrong against God and at times, our fellow man.

Illustration: Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden just after they sinned. They hid from God.

Many Christ followers have cheapened God's grace by ignoring the prompting of the Holy Spirit to seek forgiveness right away, or they have grieved God's Spirit and are quenching God's Spirit by our continual habit of sin in an area or areas of our life. People think that if they willfully sin, God will forgive them. If you are a believer in Christ, God does forgive but there will be loving discipline, consequences in this life and the next, and a loss of rewards at the judgment seat of Christ if you live as a carnal Christian. According to I Corinthians 3, a carnal Christian is a believer who has come to Christ but now lives for self and the world in the world system controlled by Satan.

That is why this morning, I want to be emphatic about the work of the Holy Spirit with and without the Word of God to bring conviction of sin to the forefront of our minds and what we should do when sensing the convicting power of the Spirit daily.

Let us look for a moment at what conviction is not from a biblical standpoint.

Conviction is not

- Merely feeling guilty
- Feeling shame
- Feeling judgment coming down
- Just a knowledge of what is right and what is wrong
- Just feeling sorry for getting caught doing something wrong

“The word convict is a translation of the Greek word “elencho”, which means to convince someone of the truth; to reprove; to accuse, refute, or cross-examine a witness.” – gotquestions.org

Conviction is

- To have our eyes open to what sin is – John 16:8

John 16:8

And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment

- To sense revolting sin in the presence of God – Psalm 5:4; Isaiah 6:5

Psalm 5:4

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.

- To sense that our sin dishonors God – Psalm 51:4

Psalm 51:4

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.

- To sense our separation from God by harboring sin in our heart – Psalm 66:18

Psalm 66:18

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened

- To sense the anger of God and the Holy Spirit when we sin – Romans 1:18; 2:5; Ephesians 4:30; I Thessalonians 5:19

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth

Ephesians 4:30

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption

- The Holy Spirit is a person. You cannot grieve an inanimate object. The Holy Spirit who is the third person of the Trinity is God and has feelings and emotions!

I Thessalonians 5:19

Do not quench the Spirit

- To draw us to repentance and forgiveness – Romans 2:4

Romans 2:4

4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness (through God's gracious conviction of sin) is meant to lead you to repentance?

- To make us a usable vessel for His service – 2 Timothy 2:20 -21

2 Timothy 2:20 – 21

20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

- To remind us that we are His children – Hebrews 12:7 – 11; John 6:44

John 6:44

44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

Transition / Background of Psalm 51. We will move now to Psalm 51 and take a cursory or an overview look at this great psalm of repentance. I want to make this as applicable as I can and use cross references from God's Word to drive home these important points that need to be a part of our daily connection with God.

In this psalm we will get a good understanding of someone who is convicted of their sin in Psalm 51 and how they responded to their sin. This is King David after his affair with Bathsheba, and the plotting and sanctioning of Uriah, her husband, to be killed. This is after the baby had died that Bathsheba delivered as a result of the pregnancy due to David's adulterous affair. Nathan the prophet as you recall in 2 Samuel 12 called out David as a man in sin and separated in his relationship with God. This psalm is David's

psalm of confession and heartfelt repentance for His sin against God and those in the family of Bathsheba and for His sin against the nation of Israel that He reigned over.

The plea for forgiveness of confessed sin – Psalm 51:1 – 6; 2 Corinthians 7:9 – 11

- I own my sin against God – 1- 4: Isaiah 6:5

Psalm 51:1 – 4

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.

- When the Holy Spirit / Word of God points something out that brings a sense of wrongdoing, what do you do with it?
 - Make excuses?
 - Blow it off and say it was no big deal? One little lie doesn't hurt anyone
 - Blame it on others or your circumstances?
 - Or say I wouldn't have done that if.....
 - Do you agree with God about your sin. Confess means to see sin as God sees it and agree that it is sin – verse 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
 - Do you ask God daily to make you sensitive to sin in order to avoid it? Do you put on the whole armor of God?
 - Do you say like David in verse 4 – Against you, you God, have I sinned and done evil in your sight?
 - Do we come to God when convicted of our sin pleading for mercy – verse one. Do we come to the only one we know who loves us faithfully and can forgive our sin? ○
 - Do we ask for the blood of Christ to wash away our sins?

I John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 9:27

And without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins

I Peter 2:24

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

- I sin because I was born with a sinful nature – 5-6

Psalm 51:5 – 6

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.

- The Holy Spirit working with our conscience from the beginning of our days after birth, works to make us feel guilty for breaking God's laws and wanting to live independently of God and His teachings.
- **The doctrine of original sin has two aspects according to Augustine**
 - First, it describes the origin of sin in the disobedience of Adam: the 'originating original sin'
 - Second, it describes the sinful condition with which every human being is born: the 'originated original sin.' It thus has both an explanatory and a descriptive role.

Theories of our soul at birth

- Pure Soul by some Jewish rabbi's – A person is not born a sinner but becomes a sinner when they sin. It is possible in theory but has never borne out that one could follow the Torah and stay without sin their entire life and get to heaven without any sacrifice for wrong doing being necessary. Jesus would not have had to die for everyone if there was another way to salvation besides the cross.
- Blank Slate theory by John Locke - At birth born with a blank slate and life's experiences, parents upbringing, education, etc. form the soul for good or bad. This is known as the Tabula Rosa
- Divine spark within us – Tony Campolo
- The Bible says we sin because are born sinners.

Romans 5:12 – 14

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

The remedy for that sin was Jesus' death on the cross, His burial and subsequent resurrection.

Romans 5:18 – 21

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. 20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- When Jesus said on the cross on Good Friday; "It is finished." The debt for sin was paid in full and no more sacrifices were required.

Application: To receive forgiveness of God, I need to agree with God about my sin when I sense the conviction of sin from the Holy Spirit.

Transition: Second, we see in Psalm 51;

The purification of the heart – Psalm 51:7 – 12

- I am brokenhearted over my sin against God – 7-9

Psalm 51:7- 9

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.

- There is a godly sorrow that is brought on by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit that moves us to repentance. It happens when we are saved and it continues to happen, moment by moment, after we come to faith in Christ.

2 Corinthians 7:9 - 11

9 As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. 10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

- The difference between worldly grief and godly sorrow – Explain
- We meditate and consider how our sin has hurt the God who loves us unconditionally.
- David is asking for forgiveness and healing from the discipline and consequences he faced for his sin with Bathsheba.

- All sin is sin and we need to accept that any sin hurts God deeply and be reminded that Jesus had to go to the cross for the sin that we have committed. This thought should be useful as a deterrent to sin. Every time we sin, it is against God and sometimes those we are in relationship with.

- I want to restore my relationship with God – 10 – 12

Psalm 51:10 – 12

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.

- Remember that at the point of our salvation, God has forgiven us from our sins and removed them from us but when we sin in the Church Age, the NT age, we separate ourselves from our relationship with God.
- David is asking for his hardened, sinful heart to be replaced by repentance, with a heart of flesh, a heart that is cleansed and sensitive to sin to avoid it with the purpose of keeping His relationship with God going forward.

Ezekiel 36:26

6 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Application: To receive forgiveness from God for my sin, I need to be brokenhearted over my sin when convicted by the Holy Spirit

Transition: Thirdly this morning;

The promise for renewed service as a clean vessel – Psalm 51:13 – 17

- I am restored to serve and praise God – 13 – 15

Psalm 51:13 – 15

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

- God created us first of all for **fellowship with Him**. He doesn't need us for a relationship, but He desired to create human beings as His special creation to interact and commune with Him
- Second of all, God created man to **glorify the Father**. As we live in relationship with the Father, we reflect the light of His glory in the relationships and culture around us. We are to be lights of the world.

- As the moon reflects the light of the sun, so we reflect the light of God's glory by what we say, how we act, our values and our attitudes that are displayed.
- Third, **to praise Him**

Hebrews 13:15

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

- Fourth, **God created man to partner with Him in His kingdom work.** Again, God does not need us but he desires to work in and through us. The work He does in us personally, He wants it to be shared and used for His service with others.
- That is another reason, we need to be clean vessels for His use. We must surrender to Him and let Him use us however He desires.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us

- I am an unworthy, but faithful servant of God – 16 – 17

Psalm 51:16 – 17

16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

- God is calling us to surrender, to lay down how we prefer for God to work in our lives, to quit telling God how we want Him to work and bless our lives
- To put away our idols. An idol is anything we place of more importance and value above God. We are to delight in Him to the exclusion of everything else.
- We have to daily, let go of our pride and look to God in humility to be our sufficient grace in our weakness.

Application: To be used by God as a clean vessel of honor, I must be reminded that I am continually a sinner saved by grace who surrenders to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

Transition: Last this morning, and very important;

The plea for restoration and revival for the nation – Psalm 51:18 – 19

Psalm 51:19

19 Then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

- I pray for the restoration our country's relationship with God – 18

Psalm 51:18

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

2 Chronicles 7:14 – Prescription for revival and restoration.

14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 16:9

2 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him

- I pray that revival will begin with me – 19 – I Peter 4:17

Psalm 51:19

19 Then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

I Peter 4:17

17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

- In a moment, we are going to have a lengthy period of silence.
- Draw a circle around yourself in your mind and ask God to bring revival to that circle. Ask the convicting power of the Holy Spirit make you aware of your sin against Him and others and seek forgiveness
- Ask God to show you what to do with the earthly relationships you have sinned against.
- It should be your desire to be all that God wants you to be and be available to Him to use you in any way He possibly wants.
- Do you desire to be used to the max by God?

Application: When convicted of sin, we come to God on His terms by confessing and repenting of our sin in order to receive forgiveness and to be used by God.

Illustration: Randy at St. Pete Beach

Transition: Here is our key thought I leave you with to apply to your life daily. God wants us to keep our sin list short, our relationship connected as much as possible to use us for His honor and glory and His kingdom work.

Key Thought: When the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, we must move immediately to agree with God about our sin and seek forgiveness through repentance.

Questions to Ponder this Week

1. When you feel that twinge in your heart of conviction, how do you respond?
2. How does it make you feel after you have repented and sensed God's forgiveness of sin?
3. Do you hunger and thirst to be a clean vessel that is available for God to use?