Lec 11Psalm 51Rev. Tariq waris

Expository Study of Psalm 51

Today we will study Psalm 51 in detail. This is a well-known psalm, and it is written as follows:

To the chief musician, a psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

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

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar." Amen.

Opening Reflection

The lecture has not even started yet, but your replies tell me that you are here and paying attention.

One time, at a birthday party, everyone was busy talking. A 10-year-old boy felt ignored. He climbed onto a table and shouted, "Everyone look at me, look at me!" People thought he was

about to make an announcement. But all he said was, "I just wanted you to see that I'm here too."

In the same way, when you comment online or speak up in class, I know that you are present and involved.

Journey from Repentance to Renewal in Psalm 51

Psalm 51 is like a journey. It starts with David's **repentance** (feeling sorry for his sin) and ends with **renewal** (a fresh start from God).

The reason for this Psalm is a serious sin by King David. He committed adultery with Bathsheba. Then he made sure her husband Uriah was killed in battle. David thought no one would find out. But we cannot hide anything from God.

The Prophet Nathan Confronts David

God told the prophet Nathan about David's sin.

In **2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12**, Nathan came to **David** and told a story:

A rich man had many animals. A poor man had only one lamb. The rich man took the poor man's only lamb to feed his guest.

David became very angry. In **2 Samuel 12:5**, he said, "The man who has done this deserves to die!"

Then in **verse** 7, Nathan said to David: "You are the man."

David had many wives, but he took Uriah's only wife and had Uriah killed.

David's Repentance and God's Mercy

What is good about David is that he did not try to argue or excuse himself. He admitted his sin.

In 2 Samuel 12:13, David said, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan replied, "The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die."

David truly repented. And God forgave him.

Psalm 51: The Journey from Confession to Restoration

After David was confronted, he wrote **Psalm 51**. It is a psalm of **repentance** and **forgiveness**. It shows a sinner asking God for mercy and being made new again.

This Psalm is still helpful for us today. When we sin, we can pray it. It shows how to confess sin honestly and ask God to forgive us.

This Psalm shows:

- Deep sorrow and guilt,
- A true prayer for forgiveness,
- A changed heart from the inside.

The Structure of the Psalm

Psalm 51 has 19 verses. We can divide it into four parts. Let's look at the first part.

1. A Plea for Mercy (Verses 1–2)

David asks God for **mercy**, because he knows he has broken God's law. God's law is His perfect way, and David says clearly that he has gone against it.

He says:

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions." (Psalm 51:1)

The words **"blot out"** were used in old times for debts. If someone owed money, it was written down. When the debt was paid, the record was erased.

David says, "God, please erase my sins from your record."

Then in **verse 2**, he says:

"Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity." Like clothes with dirt stains, David asks God to clean his life.

He adds:

"Cleanse me from my sin." He wants to be pure—inside and out. So he says three things:

"Blot out my transgressions"

"Wash me of my iniquity"

"Cleanse me from my sin"

These are legal words. They show how deeply David is crying out to God as the righteous Judge.

GOSPEL MINISTRIES

In simple words, David is saying:

"O God, You are right, fair, and holy-

Please forgive my sin and set me free in Your court!"

2. David Appeals to God's Mercy, Not His Own Good Works

Notice this: David does not talk about his good deeds. He doesn't say:

"Remember how I defeated Goliath."

"I didn't kill Saul when I had the chance."

"I wrote songs to praise You."

No! He only asks for God's mercy and love:

"According to Your loving kindness... according to Your many tender mercies..."

David reminds God of who God is:

"You are slow to get angry and full of mercy. You show kindness to thousands."

This is the beauty of David's prayer—he does not bring his good works. He brings God's love.

Even today, when we sin, let us not say things like:

"Lord, I gave a lot of money to church."

"I donated 200,000 to Bible College."

"I've always supported ministry with tithes."

God doesn't forgive us because of our money or good actions.

But if we say:

"O God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for my sins.

I admit I am guilty.

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, please forgive me—through the mercy and grace that come from Calvary..."

Then, my brother and sister, the God of Heaven will make you whiter than snow and purer than wool.

3. Confession of Sin (Verses 3–6)

In the next part (verses 3–6), David says:

"I know I've sinned: and my sin is always in front of me." (Psalm 51:3)

He does not hide his sin. He does not blame others. He admits it fully. He asks God to change him from inside.

Confession of Sins

He says,

"I admit I've done wrong. My sin is always on my mind."

David feels the weight of his sin. His heart and mind are in deep pain. It's like a thorn has pricked them.

This feeling is called "the pain of guilt before God."

David feels it mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. It's always in his heart. His thoughts keep saying:

"O David, you have sinned."

God's Holy Spirit shows him his sin. David says:

"I have sinned against You alone."

Sin Against God, Ultimately

Always remember: When we sin against people, we are also sinning against God.

David sinned against Uriah—he slept with Bathsheba and caused Uriah's death.



"Do not desire another man's wife"

"Do not kill"?

God gave these commands. So David really sinned against God. He accepts this.

Confession and God's Justice

Look at verse 4:

"I have sinned against You and done what is evil in Your eyes.

So You are right when You speak, and just when You judge."

David is saying:

"God, what You say is true. What You do is right. Your judgment is fair."

Two Ways God Can Handle Sin

God can handle sin in two ways:

He can punish the sinner with His justice—destroy, ruin, and condemn him.

Or, because of His love, God can forgive the sinner who confesses.

David knows this and says:

"God, You are fair, You are right, and You are just.

But because of Your love, please forgive me."

Justice Without Mercy Would Destroy Us All

Brothers and sisters, if God only judged and did not show mercy, then none of us could stand before Him.

We would all deserve punishment like David and be ready for hell.

Thank God for Jesus Christ!

But praise God! He sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world.

Jesus came in human form.

He took our sins on the cross.

He died for us.

He lived the holy life we failed to live.

He took the punishment we deserved.

Through Jesus, God opened the door to mercy and grace.

Calvary—Where Grace Meets Justice

At Calvary (the cross), something amazing happened:

God's justice met His mercy.

God's love met His judgment.

God's holiness met our brokenness.

God put the punishment of our sins on Jesus.

Because of this, grace and mercy continue for us today. Hallelujah!

David's Prayer and God's Grace

When David prayed this prayer, Jesus had not yet come into the world.

But still, David believed in God's mercy as much as he understood it.

Original Sin—Born in Iniquity

Then David says:

"I was born in iniquity. My mother gave birth to me in sin."

David is talking about original sin.

This means: ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all their children (all humans) are born with a sinful nature.

BETHUEL GOSPEL MINISTRIES

The Nature of Original Sin

Original sin means: from the moment we are born, we have a nature that leans toward sin.

Even little children have this.

You don't teach them to fight or lie—but they do it.

Why? Because it's part of human nature.

I have a 5-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter.

Sometimes they fight—my son might push his sister off the sofa.

She gets up and hits him back, calling him "bad boy."

We didn't teach them this.

We teach love and kindness, but still they act this way.

Why? Because of the natural sinful desire in all humans.



David admits this. He says, "I'm a sinner by birth and by actions."

That means: All people are sinners—both by nature and by choice.

The Good News After the Bad News

Verse 6 brings good news.

Verse 5 was bad news—we are born sinful.

But verse 6 says:

"God wants truth in our hearts. He teaches us wisdom deep inside."

This means: God does not leave us in sin. He wants to change our hearts.

He wants to bring us from lies to truth, from foolishness to wisdom.

The Inward Parts—Heart and Mind

The Hebrew word for "inward parts" means:

"My inner being-my heart, mind, emotions, and thoughts."

David is saying:

"O God, teach my heart wisdom. Teach my feelings the fear of God."

Structure of Psalm 51 (Third Part)

Psalm 51 has 3 parts:

Verses 1–2: Prayer for forgiveness

Verses 3–6: Confession of sin

Verses 7–12: Plea for restoration

Plea for Cleansing (Verses 7–12)

In verse 7, David says:

"Clean me with hyssop, and I will be clean."

Hyssop was a plant used for cleaning in the Law of Moses (Numbers 19:1–22).

It was used to sprinkle blood or water on a person to show that they were clean.

Use of Hyssop in Mosaic Law

In Numbers 19:14, when someone needed to be made clean, the priest used:

Two birds

Cedar wood

Red string

Hyssop

One bird was killed.

The other bird, wood, string, and hyssop were dipped in its blood and sprinkled on the person.

Then the living bird was set free.

David is using this picture. He says:

"O God, clean me like that. Sprinkle me and make me pure again."

David's Prayer for Cleansing

David says:

"Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow."

White means clean and pure.

He says:

"O God, You washed Jonah, You forgave murderers-wash me too. Make me pure."

The Broken Bones and Restoration

Then he says:

"Let me hear joy and happiness again. Let the bones You broke rejoice."

This doesn't mean his real bones were broken.

He is saying: "I feel broken inside because You left me." You have turned Your face away from me. You have not yet forgiven my sins. So I feel that I am spiritually and physically so tired as if a person whose bones are broken. My spirit is broken inside. God says, "Bring me spiritual bandage." He says, "But You can make me happy again."

The Effect of Walking Sincerely with God

Brothers and sisters, if we walk honestly with God, then when we sin, our joy will truly be taken away from us.

But what happens is that often people walk with God

and still keep doing sins again and again.

How does it happen? They do one sin, then another, and their heart stops feeling it.

They become numb; they don't feel it anymore.

Even if they feel the sin, they make excuses and give reasons.

David does not let himself reach that level.

As soon as he hears, "You have sinned,"

he accepts it and turns back to God.

This is why God said about him,

"I have found a person who is according to My heart."

He did big sins—these two are very big sins, not small ones.

But from his words, it is clear that he sat in dust and ashes

and truly said sorry.

He was not pretending.

Plea for God's Mercy and Forgiveness

"Turn Your face away from my sins and remove all my wrongdoings." Now, in verse 10, he talks about what will happen when his sins are taken away, and his bad actions are removed, how he will become. "What will I become? O God, make in me a clean heart."

The Meaning of Repentance

Saying sorry (repentance) is not only to speak about sin, but it also means change inside. Repentance means not just saying sins, but being cleaned by God, being made new, being changed.

Remember two English words about this:

"Transformation" and "New Creation."

True repentance brings a change inside, a new life—becoming a new person.

David's Request for a Renewed Spirit

David is talking about that here: "And put a new and strong spirit inside me." He says, "Make my heart new again, fix it, and change it." This is true repentance—not just changing outside actions, but changing the heart.

The Inner Spirit and Character

He says, "Put a new, strong spirit inside me." There are two meanings of "spirit" here. Some explain that this means the inner nature. God, make a clean and pure nature inside me, like those who are born again. When people are born again, God gives them not only a new nature, but also a new spirit. So "spirit" here means nature and character. Other people say "spirit" means the clean Spirit of God. He says, "O God, You whose Spirit has gone from me, give me Your Spirit again."

God's Spirit and Separation from Sin

In my view, in verse 10, the spirit means David's inner life, his inner nature. And in verse 11, he talks about God's Spirit. Look, in verse 11 he says, "Do not throw me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me." Here "Spirit" means the Spirit of God. He says, "God, do not take Your Spirit from me." Because I sinned, Your Spirit has gone away from me. Now don't throw me out from Your presence.

Sin Separates Man from God

Sin keeps a person away from God, it removes them from God's nearness. The same thing happened in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, right? God's Holy Spirit is very sensitive—where there is dirtiness, evil, and shamelessness, God's Spirit goes away from there.

Plea for Restoration and Joy

Instead, in verse 12, he tells God what to do for him, he asks to get the joy of being saved again.

If you read verse 22 of chapter 5, the first fruit of the Spirit is love, and the second is joy. Joy, happiness, and gladness

are the gifts given by God's Spirit.

The Biblical Call to Rejoice in Christ

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he talks about being happy in Christ 18 times. God wants us to be happy in Him, to be glad.

The Psalms say that salvation is like a song for good people.

There is joy and happiness.

Luke 15 says, when a sinner says sorry on earth, there is joy in heaven among the angels.

God's Joy in a Repentant Heart

So the angels are happy, and God is happy when a sinner turns back.

Those watching online, write in the comments, God is happy when a sinner turns back. So saying sorry means salvation, becoming new, and being fixed.

The Effect of Salvation on the Soul

These things bring happiness to a person's soul.

Sometimes, even if a person sits in church or meetings, inside there is bitterness, anger, hate, fighting, and problems.

But someone says, "I have received salvation."

They feel happy because they are saved.

Salvation Brings Joy and Peace

But Christ Jesus gives salvation in another way—He takes away sadness,

and what does that give?

Joy. God's people are known by their happiness. They are joyful.

The Prophetic Promise of Restoration

At the end of the book of Habakkuk, there are very strong words. Habakkuk is before Zephaniah and after Nahum. Read Zephaniah 3:17: Even if the fig tree does not give fruit, or grapes don't grow, the olive tree fails, and fields give no crops.

Sheep and Shepherd: Contentment in God despite Hardships

Sheep eat and go to the field.

Even if there are no animals in the barns, I will stay happy with the Lord. What will I be from God who saves me?

Everyone says, "What is written? What will happen? Will I only be happy in good times?" God is my strength. He makes my feet like a deer's, and He leads me to walk in high places.

David's Sin and Loss of Joy GOSPEL N

Look here, David sinned, and his joy in salvation was lost.

Wrong came after wrong, stealing after stealing, and even parties with sin made no difference. Many times, help meant for poor and hurting people was taken. Money was taken in the name of earthquake victims, the poor, and flood-affected people. They used that money, built houses, bought cars, lived rich lives, and said God gave big blessings. This stolen money is not a blessing; it is a curse.

True Fear of God and Repentance

But those who really fear God inside,

like David who truly said sorry, whether God's work is done rightly or wrongly,

will end the joy of sin and accept their fault, go and ask God to forgive them, and return. Then he says, "Give me a strong spirit and support me."

This is the start of the fourth part.

"Support me with a strong spirit," means, "O God, bring me back."

Now in verse 13:19, when he is returned, renewed, and forgiven, he will not stay a Sundayonly Christian.

In verse 13:19, he tells God's promise and speaks about hope in God publicly.

Proclaiming God's Covenant and Teaching Sinners

He says, "Then I will teach wrongdoers Your ways,

and sinners will come back to You.

I will tell sinners the good news of salvation."

Archbishop William Temple of Canterbury, Church of England, once said:

Telling others about Jesus is like one hungry person telling another where to find bread.

When we were dead because of sin, God gave us the bread of life through Jesus.

Now telling others is to say to the world who gave us that bread, and if they come to Him, they too will get that bread. It is not to eat it secretly and hide it from others.

Sinners Returning to God

He says, "O sinner, return to God, my Saviour, save me from the guilt of killing."

Here, he points towards Huriya-

"When the war came to Huriya,

I stood on the other hill and let him die; the guilt of his blood is on me."

"O God, save me from that guilt."

Singing God's Faithfulness

Then what happens?

When God saves me, my tongue will sing songs of Your truth.

David was both a poet and singer, but songs are not written or sung when the weight of sin is on the heart.

God, forgive me and take off this heavy weight.

Forgive the blood guilt, then my tongue will sing Your songs.

Corruption in the Church and Society

Today, churches in Pakistan are far behind in this matter.

A Pashtun once said, "Prayer has its place, snuff has its place, worship songs have their place, and selfish acts have theirs."

Recently a friend told me a sad story:

In Toba Tek Singh, a man named Nihad Khadim, in a government check, was found gathering children, taking them to fields, playing games, and sending their pictures to foreigners saying these blind children are getting help.

But the whole village check showed there were no blind children.

Corruption and Exploitation of Children

He used to gather children, give them sweets and drinks, then put dark glasses on them, saying, "Now we are heroes, and we will take pictures."

He sent pictures to people in other countries saying, "These are blind children; I take care of them."

The help that was sent was given to these children, who were happy, and he said he ran their home.

But the investigation showed that there were no blind children.

Whoever cheats in the name of these children, whether in Toba Tek Singh, Faisalabad, or Lahore, we will stand before Jesus for that sin.

David's Sin Prevents Him from Singing

David sinned and cannot sing; those who sin more feel heavy with guilt.

They act but do not want to show their true selves. David prays to God, "Open my lips, O Lord, my lips have been closed because of my sin. There is a burden and feeling of guilt inside me. Your Spirit has gone from me; You have left me, and I cannot bear it. Open my lips so my mouth will praise You."

God's Spirit Enables Worship

From this, we learn that God and His Holy Spirit give people the ability to worship, praise, and love Him. Without His kindness and mercy, we cannot worship God. He is our Helper and the One who gives everything.

Sacrifices God Desires

Verse 16 says, "You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings."

A broken spirit — God's sacrifice is a broken spirit.

A humble heart — the brother or sister who humbles their heart before God and offers their heart to Jesus, that is the real sacrifice.

Empty sacrifices and rituals mean nothing if the heart is not given.

The True Offering of the Heart

Many people offer animals or perform rituals, but if the heart is not given to Christ, it means nothing.

They may kill animals, but without offering the heart, it is useless.

If the heart is given to Christ, that is the true sacrifice.

God's Pleasure in a Broken and Humble Heart

God is happy with a broken and humble heart.

There was a man in winter with a high fever; his wife came home and said, "I will make you chicken broth."

The chicken was nearby eating grain, and the man said,

"Try Panadol first."

God is saying:

What we do without real change is useless; we give gifts without saying sorry. No confession, no promise.

The new year has started, but people still seek God with religious rituals, offering rice, chickpeas, or other food, thinking rituals are true spirituality.

Reality of Spirituality and Inner Change

The truth of spirituality is that a person is changed inside; their inner self becomes new. Many say they gave something to God, but only a broken and humble heart makes God happy.

David prays for Jerusalem and says:

"Then You will be happy with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;

then bulls will be offered on Your altar."

Summary of Three Theological Themes in Psalm 51

To end, there are three important theological teachings in this Psalm:

- 1. God's mercy David talks about God's mercy again and again.
- 2. The work of the Holy Spirit especially in verses 11 and 12, where David asks God not to take His Spirit away.
- 3. The new creation becoming a new person, as seen in verse 10 onward, and also connected to the New Testament.

New Testament Fulfilment of Sacrifices

Psalm 51:16 talks about burnt offerings and sacrifices for righteousness,

and the New Testament (Hebrews 10:18) explains that Jesus Christ completed the sacrifice system by giving His life.

Now, because of Christ's sacrifice and payment, we do not need any more sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins and for salvation. Hallelujah!

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Believers

The Holy Spirit is given forever to believers (John 14:16–17), and He lives inside them as a comforter.

This is part of the New Testament truth.

Joy in God: Jesus Christ and Psalm 51:10

At last, David talks about being happy in God and Jesus Christ in Psalm 51:10.

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Jesus Christ says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

So how do we see God today? How can we become pure in heart?

Through Jesus Christ's payment for our sins, through the fire of the Holy Spirit, through the power of God's Word — He makes us pure.

Jesus makes us pure, and only Jesus Christ gives us the chance to see God, meet Him, and feel His presence.

The Challenge and Good News of Psalm 51

At the end of Psalm 51, what do we learn — both challenge and good news? On one side, there is human sin; on the other side, there is Christ's salvation. The bridge between human sin and Christ's salvation is called God's grace. We, who were stuck in sin, are saved by God's kindness.

A servant once said something beautiful: Confessing your bad actions is the first step to doing good actions.

When a person says sorry for their sins, they are building the base for good deeds.

Confession and Forgiveness in the Name of Jesus

As servants of the New Promise, we should confess before God in Jesus' name. If there is any sin or mistake in your life, kneel before Him like David, confess, and ask for forgiveness.

He forgives quickly and shows love.

Also ask God to give you the gift of the Holy Spirit, so He may give power to all of us — those watching online, on Facebook, YouTube, or anywhere else — with His Spirit. So that through the power of the Spirit, we may praise God, do good deeds, live rightly, and daily remember and share Jesus' sacrifice.

Blessings and Encouragement

May God bless you all greatly. Praise God, Hallelujah! Yes, it is understood. Praise God!

Hallelujah!

We are getting wonderful comments on social media today from this message — thanks be to God.

We encourage you to like Pastor Tariq War's page, subscribe to the YouTube channel, and follow on TikTok to receive more blessings through God's Word.

Sharing God's Word

Peace be upon you in Christ Jesus. I thank God for this chance to share some thoughts from God's Word.

We will look into Paul's letter to the Colossians, chapter 2, verse 6:

"As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strong in the faith as you were taught, and full of thankfulness."

Be careful that no one traps you with tricky ideas and lies, following human traditions and basic ideas of the world, not following Christ.

Paul's Warning to the Church at Colossae

Paul writes to the church in Colossae and warns them that some false teachers say faith in Christ alone is not enough for salvation.

They wanted people to follow traditions like circumcision, food laws, and obeying spiritual leaders for salvation.

Paul tells the believers to stay strong in the teaching they were given, be rooted in it, and stay away from false ideas that do not respect God.

Stand Firm in Christ's Love

Paul tells the believers to stay strong in the love of Christ, to grow and be firm in faith, and not follow worldly or false teachings.

Such teachings pull people away from Christ instead of bringing them closer.

Wisdom from the Book of Job

Let's also remember the Book of Job, chapter 28, verse 12, where Job asks: "Where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?" Wisdom cannot be bought with gold, silver, or jewels. It is hidden from the eyes of all living beings and even from birds flying high.

Only God knows where it is and how to find it.

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

We know the story of King Solomon, son of David, who asked God for wisdom. God gave him the spirit of wisdom, and Solomon became famous for it around the world. Job the prophet asks where wisdom is found, and in the New Testament, Paul's letters show that real wisdom comes only through Christ Jesus.