

Living With Renewed Hope6
February 18, 2024

Our Prayer: Lord, renew my heart, and let me not forget that my blessings come from you.

Perhaps the ultimate test of a heart for God is: How do you handle success? The greatest test of our character may not be **adversity** but *prosperity*. When things are going well, do you pray as often? When you enjoy good health, financial security, and living in a safe community, do you recognize God as the ultimate source of those blessings?

Scripture Text: Psalms 51:10-13 NKJV **10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. **11** Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. **12** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And uphold me *by Your steadfast Spirit*. **13** *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

VERSE 10: *Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

The Repentant King David asks for God to create a miracle because his heart has been compromised with pride, power, lust, greed, and murder. He had fallen into "moral chaos," and he no longer had a child-like assurance of approaching His Heavenly Father. God had performed great works by the hands of David in his youthful days as he relied upon Him.

David is asking God to use His creative power to do something that no human could do. There were no heart surgeons in his day for broken hearts that needed repairing or replacing! Even if there were surgeons who were able to repair or replace a heart, it would still be a sinful heart in need of sanctification! **{A heart set apart for God}** David wasn't asking for forgiveness, only to be tempted and perhaps repeat his sin, but he asked for a pure heart.

Isaiah 57:15 NASB *For this is what the high and exalted One, Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, says: "I dwell in a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit; In order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

Our problem as Christians, for some of us, is that we seem to be satisfied continuing to live as we always have before we became believers. What we need is the creation of a new heart and its constant renewal to be a witness for Christ.

Sin is to the heart like a worm is to an apple, which explains David's plea for a clean heart. The adult moth lays its eggs on the surface of the fruit or the blossom. When the

eggs hatch, the larvae burrow into the heart of the fruit and feed on the flesh, creating tunnels as they grow. That's what sin is like -- it begins at the core of our being, our heart, and "eats" its deceptive, destructive way into our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Matthew 15:19 AKJV *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:”*

David was born into sin, and his sin was ever before him. We are all sinners like David, and his prayer is a plea for what we all need: ***Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.***

VERSE 11: *Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.*

David pleads with a repentant heart that he does not lose the closeness of God's presence and His Holy Spirit. He understood that intimate fellowship maintains the favor of God. He was in anguish when he lost the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, just as we can in our walk of faith.

As believers, we know that our fellowship with God is conditional. If we have unconfessed sin, we cannot enjoy the presence, the power, the peace with God, or the fellowship with one another.

Romans 8:6-8 NKJV *6: To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

1 John 1:9 NIV *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

If God withdrew His Holy Spirit, there wouldn't be a protecting presence, a loving presence, an affluent presence, a joyous presence, a gracious presence, and no discerning presence. If God withdrew His Holy Spirit, how fruitless and out of control would life be?

VERSE 12: *Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*

David was broken and pleading to be restored to a former place with God that he had experienced in the past. He had learned from his failures that the weakness of his nature and the strength of temptation would require God's help. He understood that his resilience to endure hardships and trials would be greater without the Lord's joy. His past

battles were won by an inner joy and confidence in God's Word and Spirit, leading to victory.

Our battle over our human weaknesses can be won by acknowledging that we cannot live a holy life without God. We need the help and power of the Holy Spirit every single moment if we are to be able to overcome temptation and follow godliness. Let us pray that God would renew us in the spirit of our minds!

VERSE 13: **Then** *I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.*

David is saying, in essence, "Lord, my mind is ready, and my heart has been cleansed, and I'm going to tell people what you have done for me!" I will tell them of your great love and how you will forgive our transgressions. I will tell them how you restore the soul with good things! I will tell them how they can have your peace! I will tell them that you heal us from our afflictions! I will tell them that you deliver us from evil! I will tell them of your mercy that endures forever! I will tell them in your presence, there is fullness of joy! I will tell them that all things are possible with you in our hearts!

We have learned many things about David's life, such as the frailty of man, the danger of temptation, the torment of sin, the nature and efficacy of repentance, the mercy, and the judgments of God.

Applications:

With a clean heart and a renewed spirit, our praise to Him is unrestricted!

With a heart for God, we are used to help transform lives.