

Amazing Grace and the Gift of Repentance

*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.*

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

*Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

*Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.*

Sermon Main Points:

- I. We must appeal to the God of Grace (1-2)
- II. We must make a good confession (3-6)
- III. We must believe in the grace of God (7-12)
- IV. We must live in response to the grace you have received (13-19)

Discussion Questions

1. To what does David appeal when confessing his sin and asking for forgiveness? To what does he *not* appeal?
2. Where does David place the blame for his sin? Where does he *not* place the blame?
3. How might verses 7-12 seem like David is overreaching with his confession? As Barton Kimbro said, why are we tempted to tell David to quit while he's ahead?
4. What is David's response to having received God's grace and restoration?

Going Deeper

1. Why might we be tempted to 'quit while we're ahead' and stop our confession at asking for forgiveness rather than asking for joy and restoration as well? What promise can we claim from 1 John 1:9 to aid us in this?
2. The point is often made that while Psalms such as this one were written by David, they are the words of Jesus through David. How does reading this Psalm as 'from Jesus to us' show us even more of his love and desire to give us grace?