

Building Solid Foundation: Fresh Start
Psalm 32

God's Fresh Start: His Forgiveness

Psalm 51:1-2 *Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your **great compassion**, blot out the **stain of my sins**. **Wash me clean** from my guilt. **Purify me** from my sin.*

Psalm 51:8-10 *Oh, **give me back my joy again**; you have broken me — **now let me rejoice**. Don't keep **looking at my sins**. **Remove the stain** of my guilt. **Create in me a clean heart**, O God. **Renew a right spirit** within me.*

Psalm 51:12 *Restore to me again **the joy of your salvation**, and make me **willing to obey** you.*

Shame and Guilt

Guilt is a distinct emotion in which a specific behavior is viewed as unacceptable or wrong.

Shame is an emotion where we perceive ourselves as defective, unacceptable, or fundamentally damaged.

Psalm 32:1-2 *Oh, what joy for those whose rebellion is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!*

What is Human Sin according to the Hebrew Scriptures?

- Sin is an act of rebellion against the authority, will of God
- Sin is missing the true goal, purpose of life
- Sin is dishonest, evil character
- Sin is deceit and/or perversion of our soul or spirit

Romans 4:3-8...*the Scriptures tell us, Abraham believed God, so God declared him to be righteous. When people work, their wages are not a gift. Workers earn what they receive. But people are declared righteous because of their faith, not because of their work. **King David spoke of this, describing the happiness of an undeserving sinner who is declared to be righteous:** Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. Yes, what joy for those whose sin is no longer counted against them by the Lord.*

We have to be willing to come clean and assume personal responsibility for our sin before we can move on and receive the amazing gift of God's forgiveness

When our sins are exposed we can find RELEASE from the weight of sin and discover the blessings of God

This demands total, complete honesty before God!

Key principles to learn from David:

- Guard your heart against rationalizations and justifications for sin
- Don't allow temptation to turn into sin
- Never cover up or hide sin, rather acknowledge sin immediately to God

Psalm 32:3-5 *When I refused to confess my sin, I was weak and miserable, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, I will confess my rebellion to the LORD. **And you forgave me!** All my guilt is gone.*

The Key to a Fresh Start

Forgiveness

**No matter what the sin and its consequences, confess it
and do what is right!**

How does this work?

Admit to the Lord the sin, come clean, accept culpability, confess to the Lord.

Change the behavior (repent), stop doing the sin and commit yourself to not do it again.

Accept and receive the gift of the Lord's forgiveness

2 Corinthians 4:1-2 *Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. **But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God... We tell the truth before God...***

What does God's forgiveness mean?

Psalm 65:3 *Though our hearts are filled with sins, **you forgive them all.***

Psalm 86:5 *O Lord, you are so good, **so ready to forgive**, so full of **unfailing love** for all who ask your aid.*

Psalm 103:11-12 *For **his unfailing love** toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. **He has removed our rebellious acts as far away from us as the east is from the west.***

Isaiah 1:18-19 ...No matter how deep the stain of your sins, **I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow.** Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you as **white as wool.**

Ezekiel 36:25-27 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and **you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away,** and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a **new heart with new and right desires,** and I will put a **new spirit** in you. I will take out your **stony heart of sin** and give you a **new, obedient heart....**

1 John 1:9-10 *But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.*

If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

Our Relationship with God Provides Protection

Psalm 32:6-7 *Therefore, let all the godly confess their rebellion to you while there is time that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.*

Be careful to NOT take advantage of God's grace!

Our Relationship with God Gives Us Guidance

Psalm 32:8-9 The LORD says, I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.

God's teachings are for the purpose of living and walking in the ways of God.

Worship is the Result of Our Relationship with Jesus

Psalm 32:10-11 *Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the LORD. So rejoice in the LORD and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!*

A FRESH START happens when we no longer tolerate or repress sin and all of its sickness in the Body of Christ.