

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Because of Your Love, His Mercy Is More, King of Kings

WELCOME

Give characters in the Bible who have fallen into sin—who were considered failures.

WORD

PSALM 32

³When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. ⁵I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. ⁶Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. ⁷You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah. ⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. ⁹Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you. ¹⁰Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him. ¹¹Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

Success is a lousy teacher; failure teaches you more. Failure for many of us is inevitable as there are different kinds of mistakes: the **honest mistake or "mistakes of the mind"**— where we miss out on a piece of information, or make a decision without seeing the entire picture of the situation; then there is the **moral or "heart mistakes"**— we know it to be wrong, but we choose to do it anyway. The latter causes us more guilt and deeper wounds. How do we address these instances when we fail? The Bible tells us how to deal with failures.

The title of our message is **REPENT: GOD RESTORES! Acts 3:19**, tells us to repent so that **"times of refreshing may come."** In **Joel 1:4, 2:15-16, and 2:25-26**, God wants us to realize that **if there is real repentance, there's going to be real restoration.** He will **"make up to us"** the years that our mistakes have taken.

It is the same message in **Psalm 32**. We know David had committed some mistakes, but none seemed as grave and daunting as his sin with Bathsheba, a married woman. As we read this psalm, we will realize that there can be hope after failure. Psalm 32 opens with a declaration of truth—**in order to be restored, God wants us to understand what it means to repent.**

In **vv. 1-2**, David began by describing what SIN is using three different words: **transgression** which means you have crossed the line or have rebelled; **sin** which means missing the target or falling below the standard; and **iniquity** which means perversion or crooked. Despite his failure, David experienced how God: **forgives, covers, and not impute** – an act of grace in his life. If there is a wonderful promise of restoration when we repent, then

what is the PROCESS of this restoration? It is all by **God's grace**:

1. HE INITIATES

David tells of his body wasting away because he kept silent and did not deal with his sin (**vv. 3-4**). Sin will impact your physical and emotional life. Charles Spurgeon once said, "God does not allow His children to sin successfully". God is going to do something. Why? Because God loves us. He will not allow sin to just stay with you. By God's grace, He wants us to repent. We know that David, in his sin with Bathsheba and her husband, Uriah, went through it as if nothing was wrong. But God initiated the process of correction, sent the prophet Nathan to David to rebuke him. David felt the guilt and consequences were also dealt to him (**2 Samuel 11:1-4, 26-27, 12:1, 7-9, 13-14**). Even in the seemingly heavy hand of the Lord, in its entirety, it is GRACE at work so that the sinner will be brought to repentance. **God wants you to realize His love and kindness, so that you and I will learn to repent.** Repentance results in restoration (**Romans 2:4**). By God's grace and initiative, He brought David to a place of repentance so that the process of restoration can begin. Restoration is initiated by God, but we are also expected to respond to His hand of correction.

2. WE ADMIT AND ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY

In **v.5 of Psalm 32**, David admitted to the Lord that what he did was wrong. **When you admit wrongdoing, you assume responsibility. You do not blame others.**

David did not say, *"it's the mistake of Bathsheba"*. David said it (was) **MY SIN**. A clearer picture of his admission can be seen in

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Psalm 51 which he wrote after his encounter with Nathan. In **Psalm 51:1-3**, David appealed to the grace of GOD. He approached God knowing that God is gracious. He drew near to the Lord based on His compassion, grace, and lovingkindness. He did not approach God with pride, saying “*I deserve to be forgiven*”. Notice the personal pronouns **I** and **me** appear in **verses 1-3**. David admitted his sin and didn’t blame others. Even if there was someone else involved in the temptation, it was your choice to take the sinful route, so you should humble yourself to the Lord and ask for forgiveness. Many times, we don’t want to accept responsibility. **When you blame others, you will never improve.** We need not fear when we come to the Lord to admit our sin. We make an appeal to His grace and love. He is willing to forgive. However, our sins do have consequences.

3. WE ACCEPT CONSEQUENCES

Part of our admission is our acceptance of consequences. David faced the consequences of his sins: in **2 Samuel 12**, heavy consequences were listed—the enemies will blaspheme the name of God, the child will die, his family and the nation’s peace and order will be disrupted; and David grieved for all of these.

The Christian life is a life of repentance. It is sorrowful but this kind of sorrow is not of this world, because sorrow apart from

drawing near to the Lord is destructive. **2 Corinthians 7:9-10** reminds us that worldly sorrow leads to death and is not true repentance. Repentance is **METANOIA** –it means a change of heart. Conscience plays a huge part in this (**1 Timothy 1:5, 19**). Our conscience controlled by God’s spirit and guided by God’s Word will humble us and help us avoid suffering shipwreck. Because of David’s experience, he advises his readers in **Psalm 32:6-7** to pray, don’t wait, and repent now. Many times, Satan wants us to postpone repentance, but we have to do it immediately when God convicts us. **Isaiah 55:6-7** is a sobering reminder to choose to change our direction while there is still time for us.

4. WE RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

Receiving God’s forgiveness does not give us a license to sin again. When we receive this grace from God, we value it by choosing to do things right this time. **Psalm 32:10-11** is a great reminder for us to choose the way of the righteous. We are forgiven, and so we choose to keep things right before the Lord as a response to His grace and kindness. **2 Corinthians 6:1-2** gives the response we all need: **THE TIME IS NOW. RETURN TO THE LORD AND STAY IN HIS RESTORATIVE PRESENCE!**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Give one honest mistake and one moral mistake you’ve done in the past. What were the consequences you experienced for committing such mistakes?
2. Share your own restoration story—how you committed or struggled with a certain sin and how God brought you through and out of it.
3. Which attributes of God are evident to you in Psalm 32? How have you experienced those in your life?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for repentant hearts. Extend grace, love, and care to people who think of themselves as failures. Share to family and friends that God forgives those who will come to Him in repentance.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends