

# Personal Revival

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## **Text – Psalm 51**

**Introduction:** Psalm 51 is the story of the personal revival of David, the sweet psalmist of Israel. The man that had once been recorded in the Scriptures as being after God's own heart (see 1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22) had allowed sin to contaminate his heart, therefore destroying personal communion with his Lord!

At this point, David's sin had consumed his entire life (see Psa. 51:3), and he saw nothing but the shame he had brought to his Lord (see 51:4). David's cry was that God would purify his heart and establish in him a fixed spirit (see 151:10). David wanted to feel at home with His Heavenly Father!

Why was it possible for David to experience personal revival?

### **THE COMPASSION OF THE SOVEREIGN**

David's confidence was in the "loving-kindness" and "tender mercies" of God (51:1). He did not approach God thru human merit or good deeds. We deserve nothing but hell and the wrath of a holy God, but we can experience revival because of the compassionate love of God.

### **THE CONDITION OF THE SINFUL**

David had arrived at a place in life where he was put out with his sin. He was in a state of dissatisfaction. His sin was constantly "before" him (51:3). It had invaded his sleep, stolen his appetite, dispelled his joy, and dampened his spirit. That which had once been a pleasure to him had now become a curse. Revival will never come until the child of God becomes weary of his sin.

### **THE CONFESSION OF THE SORROWFUL**

The importance of confession is seen in 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* There are three lines of thought in David's confession. He confessed his "sin" (51:3), his sinfulness (see 51:5), and the harm of his sin (see 51:4). The wayward saint must be in agreement with God on the matter of personal sin before there can be revival,

### **THE CRY OF THE SAINT**

Desiring God to act on his behalf, David cried out to Him. Sin had defiled his heart and broken his spirit. He longed for restoration in these areas. God alone could do the work needed in David's life. Oh, that we would be totally pure in our hearts and established in our spirits. That is the need of each of us.

We may never see a national revival. However, we can be the recipients of personal revival. The Lord has not changed in His compassion. Therefore, the question is, "Are we willing to change?"