

 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Psalm 51:11

**What happened to Saul, David's predecessor?** 1 Samuel 16:14

**So what is David saying?**

Effectively David is saying "Don't let me end up like Saul".

 **Why do you think David immortalized his sin in poetry?**

**Why is repentance important?**

As new believers, we are often acutely aware of our sin and our need to repent. As mature believers, we often consign repentance to the early part of our Christian walk. Why do I need to repent I'm a Christian!

**Is this attitude right?**

**How often should we repent?**

We need to repent every day, we need to repent whenever we become aware of sin.

 Unconfessed sin – Keeps you from intimacy with God.  
Blocks the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.  
Makes you weak and ineffective.

# FREEDOM

Christian Church

## Psalm 51

 Psalm 51:1 For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba

Most of us try to cover up our sins, David immortalised his in poetry!

This study is subtitled King David's midlife crisis

This psalm was written in response to one of the low points in King David's life. You are probably familiar with the story recorded in 2 Samuel 11-12. David sees a beautiful woman bathing on her rooftop, he sends for her and commits adultery with her, she gets pregnant and he has her husband killed as a cover-up. Nathan the prophet confronts David who realises his sin. Psalm 51 records how he repented.

 **Read Psalm 51**  
*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

As an interesting aside, within the peoples surrounding Israel the king was often considered to be above the law. But here the king is seen as subject to the law just like everyone else. We take this for granted today, but in ancient times it was quite a novelty.

If you are not familiar with the story, Read 2 Samuel 11.

 **What did King David do wrong?**  
What could he have done that would have helped him avoid falling for this temptation?

It has often been noted that this occurred at a time when (arguably) David should have been with the army on the battlefield, 2 Samuel 11:1. In addition to the other mistakes he made, he was in the wrong place to start with. Perhaps this made him more susceptible to temptation.

 **Is anyone exempt from temptation?**  
**As you mature in Christ do you get tempted less or more?**

 That is a hard question to answer, it could be different for each believer, it is safe to say that as you mature in Christ the temptations you face tend to change, as does your ability to cope with them. It is safe to say that they will not go away! It is also safe to say that their absence is not a mark of spirituality or maturity, even Jesus was tempted.

*So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 1 Corinthians 10:12*

Bringing life, hope and freedom to people, communities and nations.

 [www.freedom.gen.nz](http://www.freedom.gen.nz)  
[studies@freedom.gen.nz](mailto:studies@freedom.gen.nz)  
Pastor Ray Moxham



**What does this verse mean?**

**How did it apply to David?**

**How does it apply to us?**

**What attitudes did David show when faced with this temptation?**

David certainly did not recognise that he was being tempted. He does not see the consequences of his actions or even seem to realise what he is doing.



**Can the same be said of us when we are faced with temptation?**

The first step to resisting temptation is to recognise it as temptation.

**Why is this?**



*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*



This verse could suggest the more able you are to resist temptation the more you are likely to be tempted!

Within the Christian Church, there are always going to be leaders who fall into sin, just as King David did. When we see this happen our usual response is to distance ourselves from them and to state long and clearly that the rest of us are not like them. We are subject to the same weakness and temptations, a better response might be to say "but for the grace of God there go I".



The bible tells us that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9.

**How do we repent?**

**Is repentance a formula of words or an attitude of heart?**



For David repentance is an act of the heart, not of sacrifice or a formula to follow. David was a man who did everything wholeheartedly. He worshipped God wholeheartedly, sinned wholeheartedly and repented wholeheartedly. David never did anything in halves.



*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1*

**Why does David pray "have mercy on me"?**

**What does he want to happen?**

**What other ways do people try to deal with sin?**



*Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Psalm 51:2*

**Why can't he do this himself?**



*For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Psalm 51:3*

**What does he mean by this?**

**Have you ever felt this way?**



*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5*

**What does this mean?**

David acknowledges that he is by very nature sinful.



*Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Psalm 51:7*

**Who does he need to make him whole again after his sin?**

Hyssop was used to apply the blood of sacrifices and the water of purification. These are references to sacrifice.



*You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.*

*Psalm 51:16-17*

**What is David's attitude towards Sacrifice?**

David is not against sacrifice. The psalms frequently talk about bringing them. What he does realise is that the act of sacrifice is not enough your heart has to be in it. He also realises that it is not the sacrifice that is important but the forgiveness God gives because of it.



**If you say a prayer asking for forgiveness because someone (probably the pastor!) makes you and you don't mean it, is it a true prayer?**



**What are the Hallmarks of true repentance that we find in Psalm 51?**

Realization of sin
The realisation of what he has done. (up until Nathan David seems to have missed
The seriousness of sin and Effects of sin {the fact that he is a murderer)
Need for repentance
Genuine contrition and sorrow
A desire to be right with God.
The act of asking God for forgiveness
An intention to turn from sin.
Take responsibility
Humble yourself
No shifting Blame
No Excuses



**What do you think are the hallmarks of false repentance?**

Shifting blame
No responsibility
Just words not heart
Intending to do do it again
Emotionality Not True
No realisation of the gravity of sin
Sorry you were caught not sorry you did it.



**Do you think we sometimes forget how important repentance is?**