

**WHEN CHRISTIANS SIN**  
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*"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mysteries, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned and done this evil thing in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold thou desireth truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy 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 thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee,"* Psalms 51: 1-13.

We all know the tragedy that befell David when he took his eyes off the Lord and focused on Bathsheba, a bathing, naked women. After calling her to come to him moral sin was committed. To hide the sinful action he added to it by setting up the murder of her husband. But God saw it all and sent Nathan to expose David's sin. Read it for yourself in II Samuel 11. Please open your Bible and carefully read and reread his cry for the forgiveness of God. Everything about his sin and what it did to him is clearly pictured, and becomes important to you and I. We need to understand what sin does to us. What does sin do in the life of a

Christian? **It first Soils Our Soul.** *"Wash me from from my iniquity."* (verse -2). A pig enjoys the slop of a mud puddle and rolls in glee, happy in doing so. A sheep however, will go to great lengths to keep its wool clean and avoid pollution. Hiding sin in your life will make you feel dirty, in need of a bath. Dear reader, is it not time for you to clean up? Then **Sin Saturates the Mind.** *"For I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is ever before me."* (verse - 3). No believer can commit sin and forget it. A few hours of slop TV or a movie, or hours of rock and roll will set up evil in your brain. Or perhaps an immoral dose of pornography, or a sensual happening you hope to hide between you and another. It will become an infected, painful, mental wound. The memory will destroy good thinking; cancel your sleep and be repeated in your memory. A third fact is **Sin Stings The Conscience.** *"Against Thee Only Have I Sinned."* ( v -4 ). Our conscience is a main connection with God. A sinner can ignore it and a Christian can dull it, but deep down honest people realize a sense of right and wrong. This is built into us and through exposure to the Word of God , the Lords constant focus on our actions is clear. David knew his sin against Bathsheba and her husband but most of all was aware God had seen it all. When a believer hangs on to a sin and refuses to repent, we need to be reminded we can't hide it from God. A Christian cannot hide his sin from God! Fourthly, **Sin Saddens the Heart.** *" Make me to hear joy and gladness...restore unto me the joy of thy salvation"* (verses - 8 & 12). A backslidden believer always loses the joy of salvation. You cannot lose your salvation but you sure can lose the joy. Are you living a life of rebellion? A life that does not sparkle with the joy of the Lord? Perhaps you "Ho hum" through a service and go home to the same dull existence as a child of God. What has happened to your joy? Where is the thrill that once filled you? I guarantee you need to make something right that is imbedded in your life. Perhaps

something you said or did to another. God does not intend your life to be defeated by covered and unconfessed sin. You will become a tired, cranky believer who drags your feet instead of leaping in joy. Fifth, **Sin Sickens The Body. (v - 8).** *"That the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice."* David felt all his bones were broken. Sin does indeed cause much sickness. Our teenage population sexual disease level is about to pass that of adults. Thanks to the lies of public school instruction that teaches softening moral restrictions which they advocate will help our kids. No indeed my friends, inward sin always pollutes the body and mind that committed it. Make complete confession and allow God to put you back together in a life of victory. He and He alone can drive sin out of your life and restore the bones of Godliness. **Sixth, Sin Sours The Spirit, ( v -10).** *"Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and renew a right spirit within me."* Sooner or later unconfessed sin shows up for all to see. You will become bitter, critical, harsh, mean spirited, unhappy and rebellious. Your attitude will display the condition of your heart. Lastly, **Sin Seals The Lips, ( v - 14 &15)** *"Deliver me from blood guiltiness. Open my lips and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise."* When sin gets in, praise dries up. Total devotion will result in happy praise to the Lord in everything. Praise goes hand in hand with witness. Consistent soul winners are so happy within, they cannot keep quiet. Its hard to tell others about Christ when your own life is failing **Now, please review the seven things and lets go to WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT YOUR SIN?** David clearly shows four steps to remove guilt and be forgiven of any sin. First, **Have Confidence, ( v - 1).** *"Have mercy upon me , Oh God, according to thy loving kindness, according to thy tender mercies."* Stop thinking no one cares and be assured your Heavenly Father wants very much to forgive and reinstate you in victory, and He wants to take you back into fellowship. You cannot exhaust His mercy and grace. First

square the problem with him and then others and you will return to a happy relationship again. Secondly, **Make Confession, ( v - 3).** *"I acknowledge my transgression and my sin is ever before me."* To only admit you have a problem is not enough. You must say to the Lord, "I am guilty. I know I was born in sin but am so tired of being defeated. Come clean dear one, stop blaming others and tell God you are truly sorry. Then stop it! Face your sin, totally confess it and God promises to forgive. Third, **Receive Cleansing, ( v - 7).** *"Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow."* Confession and cleansing go hand in hand. Psychology experts cannot cure your problem. TV commercials say they can cure all your ills but nothing is further from the truth. Only faith in the blood of Christ can wash away sin. "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel's veins; and sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains." This precious old hymn is so very true. *"The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin,"* I John 1:7. Lastly **Evidence Consecration, ( v - 12).** *" Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation."* and (V - 13) *"Then I will teach transgressors thy ways and sinners shall be converted unto thee."* Soul winning is a joyful task to those who are right with God. I cannot forget the old time revivals when altars filled with repenting believers. It rarely happens these days for pride and indifference have become very strong. We tend to measure ourselves by ourselves or to compare our lives with others. I urge you to search your life and heart and rid yourselves of anything that hinders your walk with God. Since God could forgive immorality and murder in David there isn't anything He cannot do for you. Follow the steps he took, bury your pride and get right. Do it now!