

## Day 2: Confess and Receive

**Key Verse:** Psalm 51:10 (ESV) “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

Shame envelops you as you realize what you’ve done...the crimes you committed. Never in a million years did you imagine you were capable of such horror. You are God’s favored one, He has protected you from so many dangers, given you more than you dreamed of. And yet here you are now. Alone. Embarrassed. Angry. Guilty.

As you sit in your room, memories of your life play like a highlight reel in your mind. First, you are standing next to your older brothers as you are anointed the future king of Israel. Then, the long days spent tending to your family’s sheep, picking up flat stones that catch your eye on the hillside. You remember how sweaty your palms were as you walked into the valley to face the giant and the confidence you felt that God was with you despite every instinct to run away. You know God was with you when Saul sent his armies after you. Every night you slept in the caves, you remembered God’s promise and learned to trust His faithfulness despite your circumstances. You recall every victorious battle, certain each triumph in your life was a sign of God’s favor. Someone once described you as a man after God’s own heart. What would they think of you now? What does God think of you now?

Now that you’ve gotten another man’s wife pregnant? Now that you’ve had Uriah killed to cover up your sin?

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In Psalm 51, we read David’s response to his sin. We sense the tension he felt between his faith in the Lord and devastation over his choices. Many of us have felt this same tension.

We may be tempted to think that our sin doesn’t even compare to the evil David displayed, yet our sin is still very real and very offensive to a Holy God.

So, we learn to echo David’s prayer of confession in Psalm 51:3-4 and say to the Lord, “I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.”

Like David, we take time to confess our failures and shortcomings to the Lord. But also, like David, we receive the mercy and forgiveness God has to offer. Because our mistakes don't affect His character. He loves us continually, and His grace is abundant. 1 John 1:9 promises, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Don't allow your sin or past mistakes to keep you from prayer or lead you to believe that God can't use you anymore. His grace is greater than your choices! Just like David, God will continue to show you His faithfulness and favor. After confessing his sin and receiving God's forgiveness, David continued to worship the Lord and seek His guidance. He was not disqualified by God but was included in the lineage of Jesus Christ. Let's not let shame keep us from the Lord, but instead, as we acknowledge our sin, may it push us closer to Jesus.

**Today's Focus:** For a deeper study, read 2 Samuel 11-12:15 before reading David's prayer of confession in Psalm 51. Use today to confess your sin to the Lord and allow Him to shower you with His forgiveness and grace.