

FROM FAILURE TO FREEDOM

PSALM 51 | ERIC SIMPSON | AUGUST 11, 2019

"God has receded into the background, and David has stepped up front and center. The more David, the less God. The less David is paying attention to God, the more he's acting as if he were God, acting like a god in relation to Bathsheba, pulling her into the orbit of his will so that she's dependent upon him; acting like a god in relation to Uriah and giving the commands that determine his fate." – Eugene Peterson

- Own it – let God change the vocabulary from "they" to "me"

Psalms 51:1-3

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

You can't change something you're not aware of.

- Uncover it – let God name the failure(s)

Psalms 51:4-6

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶ Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Before you can repair "people issues", you must come to grips with the God-issue.

- Put it away – let God cleanse and cover

Psalms 51:7-9

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

"We can no more live a sinless life than we can plant potatoes without getting our hands dirty. But neither do we have to go around all day with dirty hands. There are washbasins well-supplied with soap in our homes and workplaces—and baptismal fonts and baptistries in our sanctuaries. The way, the only way, to deal with sin is through washing...and connecting with God's forgiveness, like washing, requires frequency." – Eugene Peterson

- Leave it – let God restore and mature

Psalms 51:10-12

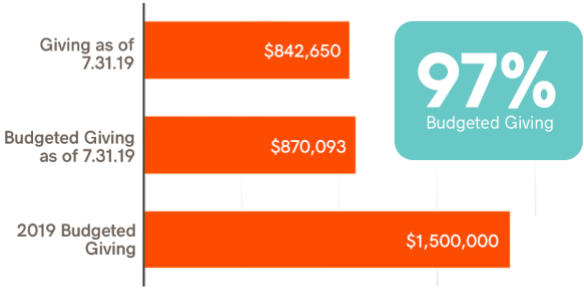
¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Our part = own it, uncover it, put it away, leave it

God's part = shift vocabulary, name the failure, cleanse & cover, restore & mature

Without God we cannot, without us He will not.

GIVING UPDATE



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