

**PSALMS**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 28 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As we have seen, the book of Psalms covers the emotions of man, all that he may go through in life and as low as he may get, the Psalmist get's himself and us focused back on the Lord. You see, it is the Lord who can help, it is the Lord who can restore our downcast spirit because, as we cast our cares upon Him, then they are no longer a burden to us because we are trusting in Him and the promises He has given to us in His Word!

We are not sure when David wrote this Psalm, what the specific situation he was facing that caused him to cry out to God, but whatever it was, we see David sing praise unto God for answering his prayer even though he went through this period of silence from hearing the voice of God. So with that said, let's begin reading in Psalm 28, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word!

**PSALM 28****VERSES 1-2**

1. Why does God bring difficult times into our lives? God uses difficult times to help us to grow, to learn to trust in Him, to rest in Him, to place your feet upon the Rock and not upon the shifting sand of this world!

You may have heard this story of this woman who was deathly ill. She was on her deathbed with no hope to live. The doctors spoke with the family and he told them, “She is sinking fast. There is not much time left.” The woman heard what the doctor had said and this elderly saint responded back, “I’m not sinking! You can’t sink through a Rock!” How true that is and as she finished her words she was ushered into the presence of her Lord! That is the perspective we need to have, we will not sink, we need to place our feet upon the Rock and keep our eyes focused on Jesus!

2. Now what should we do when it seems that God is silent, that He is not speaking to us like David was feeling? We must fall back on His love and care for us, knowing He wants what is best for us. We must fall back upon His Word because He will speak to us through His Word. That silence should cause us to draw close to Him, to be in His Word!

3. I do need to mention this because God can be silent with us when we allow sin into our lives because sin can break our fellowship with God. We can’t lose our salvation, but continual sin will separate or break that fellowship with God. In Isaiah 59:1-2 we read, **“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”** Again, I am not saying you can lose your salvation but your fellowship with God will be broken. So what are we to do? Restore that fellowship by confessing our sins before Him. It is as John tells us I 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.”**

VERSES 3-5

1. David is asking God to hear his cry for he is not like the wicked. David wants God to repay them for their wickedness, to destroy them. Is this a prayer that we as Christians should pray? I think it is and let me explain. First of all our battle is not against flesh and blood but it is a spiritual battle and we are to pray that God would bind the enemy, there is nothing wrong with that. In regards to the unsaved, we are to pray for their destruction in that they would come to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and as they do that enemy becomes a brother or sister in the Lord.

Paul makes this point in II Corinthians 10:3-6, **“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”**

Paul tells us that our weapons are spiritual. The offensive weapons we have are the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit and prayer! Our defensive weapons are the belt of truth which holds us up and keeps us from tripping over ourselves. Then we have the breastplate of righteousness which protects our hearts, our emotions, our feelings. Our feet are firmly planted upon the Gospel of peace. We also have the shield of faith which can quench the fiery darts that Satan will fire at us. And there is the helmet of salvation will protect our mind from the evil one. And in Ephesians chapter 6 Paul is saying that because we are fighting against the spiritual hosts of wickedness we ***MUST*** take up the whole armor of God, we must be prepared!

Now, who or what are we fighting against? Those that are exalting themselves above God and against the knowledge of God like Scientists, evolutionists, philosophers, and religionists! The Word of God defeats them and prayer defeats them and they will not get at us if we put on our spiritual armor! Does that really work? You bet it does! Clarke tells us, “In like manner the doctrines of the *reformation*, mighty through God, pulled down – demolished and brought into captivity, the whole papal system; and instead of obedience to the pope, the pretended vicar of God upon the earth, obedience to Christ, as the sole almighty Head of the Church, was established, particularly in Great Britain, where it continues to prevail. Hallelujah! The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!”

And notice that these spiritual weapons are for the pulling down of the strongholds of the enemy. They are for the casting down of arguments. And they are for bringing down those that are against God. And this victory is given to us in Christ but you must be willing to go into battle against the enemy! May we pray with that same passion as David did!

#### VERSES 6-9

1. Now here is something that we don't have insight into and I think there is a reason for that. You see, we don't know how long before God answered David's prayer, but He did. God will answer our prayers and it is not going to be in our time but His perfect timing. And God answers all of our prayers. Sometimes it is “Yes” and sometimes it is “No” and sometimes it is “Not yet!” We must learn to wait upon the Lord, to trust in Him that He has a perfect plan that will come to pass; we just need to obey and walk as He directs us.

2. What happens as we see our prayers answered by God? Well, like David, it causes our faith to grow. We learn to trust in Him more and more and in knowing that, God will also bring bigger things into our lives not to destroy us, but to help our faith to grow! God will care for us; we do not need to fear. It is as Isaiah 40:11 say's, "**He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.**" That is our God!

3. As we opened up this Psalm we saw the prayer of David crying out to God to hear his prayer, to listen to his request. By the time David is done and his prayers are answered David's focus is no longer on himself but his people as he prays for God to bless them and guide them forever!

### **PSALM 29**

In this Psalm David speaks of the power seen in the voice of God. And as David meditates on this, there is a powerful thunderstorm moving across the land and in that thunderstorm David sees the power of God. It reminds me of the book of Job as God spoke to Job out of the whirlwind, a powerful storm. Perspective is everything as we will see in this Psalm.

VERSES 1-2

1. We are told to give to the Lord what is due Him - glory, strength, worship and-so-on.

We are to worship Him according to His holiness, not ours. In our lives, God should be glorified. Paul put it this way in II Thessalonians 1:12. He said, **“that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”** Paul is praying that God’s glory would be manifested both in and through the lives of believers, and as God’s glory is manifest in them, God is being glorified.

2. We are also to worship God according to the majesty of **“His”** holiness, which I don’t think we can completely comprehend with our finite minds. God’s Word gives us a glimpse of His holiness, His purity, but we usually try to compare it with our own life, and that just brings His holiness down. He deserves to be worshipped according to His holiness. There is nothing that needs to be added to God, He is perfect, He is holy and thus, what should flow from His creation, you and me, is praise and worship of the One who loves us so much!

VERSES 3-4

1. The voice of God is so powerful, it spoke the universe into existence, and yet it is His still small voice that speaks to our hearts and when He does it is powerful. David was relating this as he saw this storm approaching, the thunder and the wind churning up the sea, and-so-on. And how often we look to God in the midst of the fierce storms that come upon our lives? When it is sunny out, when things are going well in our lives we tend to forget about God. We often are too busy for God. But in the midst of the storm you cry out to God. May we learn to seek Him and praise Him all the days of our lives!

VERSES 5-7

1. It could be that as David is meditating on the power of God, that lightening from this storm struck a tree, causing it to split in two. That is a powerful picture of the power of God! God's voice is powerful, it is strong, it can bring fear to people, it causes them to get knocked off their course. And think about that one for a minute. God sometimes needs to knock us off the course we have set for ourselves to get us back on the course that He has for us, which is the best place to be!

VERSES 8-9

1. Some storms are so sever that it causes the animals to go into labor and give birth.

And the picture that David is painting for us here is that God's voice is powerful. In Exodus 19:16, as the children of Israel gathered around Mount Sinai to hear the voice of God, we read, "**. . . that there were thundering and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.**"

2. And verse 9 concludes with these words, "**And in His temple everyone says, 'Glory!'**" That seems strange when David was talking about the power of this storm and what it could do and then he is in heaven speaking of what the angelic realm say before the Lord in His temple, "**Glory!**" I think David is just speaking of what the Temple in heaven is like as God is seated upon the throne! He sees this picture in nature as what heaven is like before God and thus, may we learn to give glory to God, to praise Him in the midst of the storm or on a bright sunny day because He is worthy of our praise!



VERSES 10-11

1. As the storm passes quickly by, the Lord remains on His throne, in control of the situation. Remember the story of Jesus and His disciple's crossing over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. And as they set sail, Mark chapter 4 tells us that Jesus fell asleep in the stern of the boat, and as He did a huge, fierce squall came upon them. Waves were not just crashing into the side of the boat, but the water was spilling into the boat. And these men feared for their lives, which tells me this storm was intense, since some of these men were fishermen and they were use to sailing in these waters and encountering storms.

And at this point they were probably bailing water out of their boat, trying to stay afloat, and they became angry at Jesus for sleeping, not caring that they were all going to die. And we read in Mark 4:39-41, **“Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, ‘Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?’ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, ‘Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!’”**

Jesus assumed the authority exercised only by God, because He is God. And God will empower us for the work He has called us to do, even in the midst of a storm, for in that storm, we will find peace in Him as He works through us. And in verse 11 we see two blessings that God has given to us if we will look to Him. He will give us strength as we go through the storms of life. And He will give us peace, like I have said, in the midst of these storms. Never lose sight that He is still on the throne no matter how intense the storm may be!

2. Notice that this Psalm started out with us blessing God and in the midst of all that we see the Psalm end with God blessing us! That is our God; He desires to bless His children!

### **PSALM 30**

This is a Psalm of praise and rejoicing as God delivered David from the clutches of death. We are not exactly sure during what situation David wrote this Psalm from. Some Bible scholars thought it was written when David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and placed it in the Tabernacle. Others feel that this took place at the threshing floor of Araunah, the place where the Temple would be built. We are not sure but there is much we can glean from this Psalm as we see the struggles of David and how God brought him through those times, how God delivered him not only from a physical illness, but from his enemies!

#### **VERSES 1-3**

1. We have seen as we've looked at the life of David that he had many enemies that wanted him dead and thus, it is difficult to pinpoint which time this was. Also, we don't know when David went through this life-threatening illness, there is no record of it except here in this Psalm and it was bad, he almost died. But God did deliver him through it. So not only was David near death but his enemies were excited to see this come to pass. And yet, God healed him from the clutches of death. The God who created us can surely heal us, no matter how hopeless it may seem from a human perspective.

2. Pastor Chuck tells of a story of a pastor who came to him after fervently praying for his wife to be healed. His wife was going for exploratory surgery and the doctors felt it was cancer. And many family and friends were in prayer, asking God to heal her so that when the doctors opened her up, they would find no trace of cancer. They prayed with confidence and with faith that God was going to heal her. When the surgeons opened her up they found so much cancer in her that they just closed her up. And this pastor was discouraged, for he believed that God was going to heal her.

And as he spoke to Pastor Chuck about all that had transpired and how discouraged he was, Pastor Chuck asked him if it was too late for God to heal her. And of course it wasn't and so they once again prayed that God would heal her. A few weeks later the pastor came back to talk to Chuck and he was excited. When his wife went back to the doctors they could not find a trace of the cancer. This doctor thought that maybe the surgeons made a mistake, but of course, that wasn't true. God healed her and she is completely free of cancer. Why did God let this go on for so long? Because now He could get the glory and not man and many times we like to tell God how to do it when we should just be praying that He would heal, that His will would be done. Now in saying that God does heal, and there is no doubt about that, we also must remember that not everyone is healed. God is sovereign and He does as He wills, not as we will!

3. One more thing here and that is the praise that David gives unto the Lord. It is not that David has to praise the Lord, but that is what he desires, it is a passion of his life to praise the One who lifts him up and loves him! And now, as David was very sick, you might say had one foot in the grave, and yet God delivered him from this illness and silenced the enemies of David.

#### VERSES 4-5

1. What is David talking about when he says that **“His anger is but for a moment”**? David is speaking of the chastening of God upon our life. How He tries to correct us, and as difficult as those times may be, they only last a short time, and joy will return.

Notice what the writer of Hebrews has to say regarding the chastening of God in our life. In Hebrews 12:6-8 we read, **“For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.”** God’s chastening shows us that we are His children. If we were not chastened, then you are not His sons.

And keep in mind that God’s chastening is not punitive, it is not retaliatory, it is corrective. Here in Hebrews Paul is speaking of **“chastening”** or discipline. It is the Greek word PAIDEIA, (pahee-di’-ah) and it speaks of the training of a child so that they may grow and mature. God desires for us to grow, to mature in the faith!

2. Now why was David chastened by God? The next verse tells us.

VERSES 6-7

1. Now as you read this don't miss the point that David is making here because this is something that we struggle with all the time, who are we putting our trust in! You see, David's faith, his trust, for some reason, was not placed on the Lord, but on his prosperity. Thus, God is trying to redirect him, get David's attention, and He does this by chastening. All the money in the world couldn't save David at this point, so God quickly gets his attention.

2. As I have said, this is a tough area. We trust in our job, things are going well, the money is good, no problems at work, everyone gets along very well. And what is missing from this picture? It is God, we are placing our trust, our faith in a sense in things instead of the Lord and that is dangerous. Our job can be gone in a minute, the money can be taken away, there can be more problems at work than you could ever imagine, there can be more contentions now than ever before. And what can we do? We can rest in the One who never changes, the Lord. He needs to be our Rock because no matter how shaky the ground we are standing upon is, we will not be moved! May we never forget that!

3. By the time we get to verse 7 David's attitude has changed. He is now refocused back on the Lord, the chastening did what it was suppose to do, correct David not destroy him. It was the Lord and not David that made his mountain strong, his life, his kingdom, God is the One who sustains all these things. The problem is when we are not trusting in the Lord but in things and God, in a sense, hides His face from us, that is when trouble comes our way to bring us back to the only One that can help, the Lord!

VERSES 8-10

1. Now we see how David responded to the chastening of God. You see, as God got David's attention we see that David does not turn to his prosperity for help, but to the Lord. God's chastening restored David; it got him focused back on track. Now does the chastening of God always do that, does it always get us back on track? Sadly the answer to that is no, it does not always do that but that is what the chastening of God is to do. Then what is the problem? It all boils down to this; it is up to us to respond. God will not force us but He will keep drawing us back to Him, but it is up to us to repent and get right!

VERSES 11-12

1. God has healed David and brought gladness back into his life. Through this all David's faith is strengthened and he is sharing his testimony with others, sharing what God has done in his life. We should share with others what God has done in our life and what God has shown us through it. David's life had changed. He went from sickness to health, from mourning to gladness, and from silence to praise.

2. Now what if we are not healed, what if our marriage is not restored, what if the job failed, what if? As hard as that may be to take, you need to fall back on what you know about God, His love for you and walk accordingly or dance you might say accordingly. Is our love for God based on what God gives us or is it based upon the person and work of Jesus? You see, He has given to us the most precious gift, His Son and through Him we have eternal life. What more do you need and the reality is, if you need more than that, you will never be satisfied. That is not to say that God does not bless us with so many things, but that is not the bases we praise Him and rejoice in His love for us! Remember what Paul said, and of all people, he understood this because he experienced it in his life. He wrote, “**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**” Romans 8:28. Fall back on what you know about God and you will not be moved no matter what comes your way, look to Him and He will see you through those storms of life!

### **PSALM 31**

This Psalm is a mixture of prayers and praises unto God, as David places total confidence in God to deliver him out of these difficult situations. We might say that David is calling us to be of good courage in all we face in life, be steadfast, immovable, keep abounding in the work of the Lord, don't give up!

VERSES 1-5

1. Notice where David starts out, he has the correct perspective. David's trust is not placed in his might, or in anything other than the Lord. To David, God is his Rock, a stable foundation he can rest his life upon.

Also, David sees the Lord as his fortress or a sound structure of protection from the enemy. Anyone that places their life in the hands of the Lord will be stable, even though the storms may be crashing in. They will see protection, safety through the storms, and in the end, they will spend eternity with the Lord. That is a promise of God, and God does not lie. I like the way one person put it. They said that "There are times when I am frightened and I tremble on the rock, but the rock never trembles under me." May we not forget that!

2. Also, in Proverbs 30:26 we are told, "**The rock badgers are a feeble folk, Yet they make their homes in the crags.**" This feeble little creature uses the rocks for protection and what a picture of us. We are feeble, weak, vulnerable and yet, if we hide in the Rock, Jesus Christ, we will be safe. We need to make our home in Him and anyone who doesn't, their home will be unstable, their life will be unstable!



3. As David moves into verse 5 he is saying that God is asking us to put our life into His hands, to trust in Him, for He will redeem us out of the various situations we may find ourselves in. And the most important one is our sinful condition. If we look to Him, He will forgive us our sins through His Son, Jesus Christ. You see, it is not because of our righteousness, how good we are, but His righteousness that has been imputed to us through Christ. And no matter what you are going through, no matter how difficult it may be, commit your life into His hands. It is as Peter said in I Peter 4:19, **“Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”**

4. One more thing. In verse 5 where David said, **“Into Your hand I commit my spirit”** these are the words that Jesus cried from the cross of Calvary, one of the seven sayings that the Scriptures record for us. (Luke 23:46). May we commit our lives into His hands!

#### VERSES 6-8

1. David’s life was placed upon the Rock, and thus it brought stability to his life even though the enemy was all around. How can David have such confidence, such trust? Because David’s faith had grown through previous trials, and he drew strength from God’s deliverance in the past, to help him stand in the present situation, knowing God has not forsaken him, and will deliver him.

2. Now in verse 6 David said that **“I hate those who regard vain idols.”** Now today many would say that this was an unloving way to treat people. I disagree. Why did David say this? Because those who have hope in empty, worthless things will lead others down that same path! That is how dangerous it is. I have taken some flak or criticism over the years when I come against those that work together with people like Glenn Beck or Rick Warren. The argument goes something like this, “At least they are able to share the Gospel message and minister to the people that are there!”

That is a lame argument. Would you side with the Devil to promote the Lord? Absolutely not and thus, if these leaders, these teachers are not teaching the things of God but a new Gospel, eastern mysticism, New Age then what they are teaching is not of God but it is of the Devil. I think this is a very dangerous path to be on because as you side with these people, as you work together with them, many will feel that you agree with their teaching! Do you see how dangerous it is!

Listen to what we are told in Acts 16:16-18, **“Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, ‘These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.’ And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour.”**

Why didn't Paul allow her to continue what she was saying? She was correct. Because God does not need the demonic world to help spread the Gospel message! And yet today, we have no problem teaming up with the unsaved and those that we have no idea where they are at for the cause of Christ. That is wrong and truly I do hate those who regard vain idols because how they are getting people to trust in these things instead of the living God. I do try to error on the side of grace and the only place that I am truly not or try not to be is in the area of doctrine. I will not accept or work with those that teach heresy but I will expose them. You can disagree with me on that and that is fine. But show me scripturally where light and darkness are to mix for any cause!

#### VERSES 9-13

1. Now I am not going to be dogmatic on this, but these verses may give us a clue to when David wrote this Psalm. I think it shows us the circumstances that this Psalm was born out of. David could be speaking of his sin with Bathsheba, his iniquity. And the consequences of that sin caused him to be a broken man and gave his enemies and his friends cause to come against him. And he is asking for God's mercy upon his life, to deliver him from this situation.

VERSES 14-18

1. Have you ever had family, friends, co-workers come against you? I am sure that you have. What did you do about it? I think David gives to us the answer but it is one we don't always like. But I also believe by having the right perspective of the situation, it determines your outlook. For David, he said, "**You are my God.**" It speaks of a relationship, a trust that David had in the Lord. That means you have to trust in the Lord that He will see you through no matter how difficult the situation may be. You have to give it to the Lord and as Paul said in Philippians 4:13, "**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**" Notice it does not say, "most things" or "many things" but it says "**all things**" and we need to remember that. God will accomplish His will in our lives as long as we are willing to walk by faith and not by sight. As long as we are willing to trust in Him and let Him do His will and not that we do our will!

VERSES 19-24

1. David is using his life as an example of how God delivered him from difficult situations to encourage others to follow the Lord, not to give up! He wants them to place their feet upon the Rock for stability in their lives. He wants them to gather into His fortress for protection in their lives. And David is just praising the Lord for His faithfulness and may we do the same. God is faithful and what He has promised us He will bring to pass in His time. He makes all things beautiful in His time, never forget that! (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

2. Now here's the thing. People will come against you. Family can come against you. Friends can come against you. Co-workers can come against you. And that list can go on-and-on. And as you dwell upon that you will be anxious, fearful, you will not find rest. But, if you give it to the Lord, lay it at His feet you can rest in Him. Remember what God has done in the past will give you strength for what you are going through now. Treasure the promises of God found in the Word of God. It is as David said here in Psalm 31, **“And He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”** Where is your hope? Who is your hope in? Wherever you place your hope will determine the strength you have in the situations you face!

### **PSALM 32**

This Psalm is born out of the sin that David committed with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah, one of David's mighty men. Psalm 51 also deals with this sin only its focus is his confession of sin before God while Psalm 32 speaks of the joy that is found in the forgiveness of sin. And how true that is, knowing that God forgives and really forgets our sin, casting them as far as the east is from the west, to be remembered no more! Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

VERSES 1-2

1. David starts out by expressing who is blessed or who is happy? And then David tells us that this blessed or happy person is the one who finds forgiveness of his willful and secret sin. There is a difference between transgressions and sins. A transgression is a deliberate or willful action on the person's part. It is an act of rebellion. On the other hand, a sin is missing the mark but it is not willful!

And here is the glorious thing. God has forgiven us fully, not because of how good we are, but because of the work of Christ on the cross of Calvary. His blood paid the penalty for all our sins. Paul put it this way in Colossians 2:13-14, **“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”** All our sins were nailed to the cross, paid in full by Jesus and what a joy that is!

Now some may feel that their sin can never be forgiven. Some feel that their sin is beyond forgiveness. Not so. Hebrews 7:25 says, **“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”** God can save completely, forever, all those who come to Him!

Now when we *forgive* someone, many times we don't *forget* what they did to us, but that is not the case with God. When God forgives our sins, He remembers them no more. Psalm 103:12 says, "**As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**" East and west will never meet, and God has removed our sins that far - **COMPLETELY!** And so, in knowing that it should make us feel blessed, it should bring great joy to our lives! Don't let Satan rob you of that joy, that blessedness that God has given to us through His Son Jesus Christ!

#### VERSES 3-4

1. What pain and sorry we bring into our lives when we try to cover, try to hide our sin. David, in trying to hide his sin, was physically affected. His whole being ached as he was living in sin, trying to hide his sin from God. But you can't hide anything from God, as Hebrews 4:13 says, "**And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**"

Not only was David physically sick, physically hurting but he also was hurting spiritually speaking. In a sense his spirit was sick! How was that manifested? His spiritual life was dry; it was like being in a desert. Why does God do this? The reason God does this is because He does not want us to prosper in our sin. He wants us to get back on track. God wants us to deal with our sin, and if we don't, He will get our attention. It is the chastening of God to restore us not to destroy us!

Paul put it this way in I Corinthians 11:31-32, as he said, **“For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”** We are not judged as Christians for punishment but we are judged for correction as the Lord chastens us.

#### VERSE 5

1. David tried to hide his sin for over 9 months, almost a full year. And it was not until Nathan the prophet came and through a story he told the eyes of David were opened and he confessed his sin before the Lord. And what did the Lord do? Did He say, “Good to hear from you David. Let me think about this for a little while and I will get back to you!” No, he did not say that, not at all. As soon as David confessed his sin the Lord forgave him. In fact, in the Hebrew it implies that even before David spoke these words, as he confessed them in his heart, God was standing with forgiveness - ***TOTAL***

#### ***FORGIVENESS!***

In Isaiah 1:18-19 we read, **“Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.’”** God wants us to think about where we stand in our sins and as we realize that we are in trouble apart from Him, that we would turn to Him and ask forgiveness as David did!



2. Now here is a problem for many of us today. Many allow Satan to mess us up in this area. They allow him to mess with our minds telling us that God won't or can't forgive us. They let Satan tell us that our sin is beyond the forgiveness of God. They allow Satan to tell us that we blew it so bad this time that God has given up on us.

But that is not what the Bible tells us. That is not what God says. In I John 1:9 we read, **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** Complete forgiveness is found in Christ. And remember, the only sin that will keep you out of heaven is your rejection of the free gift of God, that is Jesus Christ, for in Him is found the forgiveness of sins – ***TOTAL FORGIVENESS!***

#### VERSES 6-7

1. When God's conviction comes upon our life it does not drive us away from God, but it draws us to Him. It causes us to seek Him, to fellowship with Him, to pray to Him. Thus, we need to trust and rest in the God who forgives. Remember, conviction is from God, and it draws us to Him. Condemnation is from Satan and it drives us away from God.

2. The flood spoken of here is the flood of judgment and here's the thing. God's judgment will not flow over you or drown you. If you confess your sin, He is faithful and just to forgive you. If you don't know Jesus then the flood waters of judgment will overflow your life because you have rejected the only one who can save you, Jesus!

3. As we move into verse 8 you will see that God is now speaking to David.

VERSES 8-9

1. What a joy it is to know that God wants to guide us, He wants to teach us, but how does He do it? He says that He will do it with His eye. That means we have to be looking at Him, our eyes have to be focused on Him, it speaks of fellowship, it speaks of being in His Word.

2. There is another way that God can direct us and that is by bit and bridle. In other words, just as a wild animal is directed with pain in the way he should go God will direct us. But God does not want to direct us this way. If we refuse to look to Him, He will lead us like a wild animal, by inflicting some pain in our life to get us to go in the right direction. Thus, keep your eyes on the Lord, focus upon Him and obey His directions for your life as you read His Word and are in fellowship with Him!

VERSES 10-11

1. For those who trust in the Lord, His mercy will be extended to them. But for the wicked, sorrows will fill their life, for there is no forgiveness of sin for them outside of Christ. And thus, as you look at the gravity of sin, the consequences of sin, no wonder David said, **“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.”** Psalm 32:1-2.

2. Let me close with these words from William MacDonald. He wrote,

Happiness is to be forgiven! It is an emotion that defies description. It is the relief of an enormous burden lifted, of a debt canceled, of a conscience at rest. Guilt is gone, warfare is ended, peace is enjoyed. To David it meant the forgiveness of his great transgression, the covering of his sin, the non-imputation of his iniquity, and the cleansing of his spirit from deceit. To the believer today it means more than the mere covering of his sin; that was the OT concept of atonement. In this age the believer knows that his sins have been put away completely and buried forever in the sea of God's forgetfulness.

- William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary, p. 594