

## THE WAY TO JOY AFTER WE HAVE DEVASTATED OUR LIVES

### PSALM 51:1-19

No one, in his or her right mind would like to devastate their life, character, and their future. Yet, the truth is, there are countless thousands who awakened this morning to realize they have done something that devastate their character and their personhood. One prime example in Scripture of a person who devastated his life was King David. David had the blessing of God upon his life, and had prospered at the hand of God by becoming a part of King Saul's household at an early age. God demonstrated his presence with David as a child by allowing David to kill Goliath the giant. Yet, with all the many victories and successes of his life that didn't alter the fact that on "one particular day", David made an unwise, and foolish decision that would begin the process of devastating his life. David took the initiative to summons a woman by the name of Bathsheba to his chambers where he has sexual relations with her, and the story even grows more wicked in the fact that King David attempted to cover over his actions by attempting to get Uriah, Bathsheba's husband to come home from war and be with his wife to cover over "David's sin". Irregardless of all the victories that God had allowed David to experience, David found himself one day with his life devastated over an action that he did that was totally wicked to the will of God.

The truth is, today there are many saints who have lived and are living where David has lived. They have known many victories in their spiritual life, they have known success in their home, finances, and personal heart, only to find themselves today living in desperation and devastation. However, the nature of God is such that He will always guide us from devastation to joy if we are willing to listen solely and completely to Him, and do exactly and precisely what He says. Psalm 51 is the transitional chapter in the life of King David. Had this chapter never been a part of David's life, his life would have continually spiraled downward, but God interrupted his life in order to bring David back into a right relationship with Himself, and to bring joy back into his life. The God that created us hates it when we are missing out on joy, peace and tranquility in our lives and He will do whatever necessary in order to repair our ruptured lives when we have blown it. However, the crucial matter is our response.

**1. ACCEPTING PERSONAL CONFRONTATION FROM A GODLY FRIEND.** Before Psalms 51 was ever penned, God brought into the life of David a godly prophet by the name of Nathan. Because David's heart had become calloused to hearing God's attention getter's, God had to intentionally and purposely bring someone into the life of David to confront him about His sin. Nathan didn't plan, desire or relish the fact of confronting David, but Nathan was bent on obeying the Lord God over and above his personal emotions and feelings. The fact that God brought Nathan into David's life gives us a divine principle of the nature of God. When God has watched us devastate our lives and make disastrous decisions, He will in His own good timing bring someone into our lives who loves us, cares for us, but most of all loves the Lord God. Why does God bring individuals into our lives? It is often times through confrontation that actions are called into check and our eyes are opened to our personal behavior. To reject godly criticism at this point is detrimental.

Only God knows how David's life would have turned out, had David chosen to reject the godly criticism of Nathan. But certain things would have been sure: David's would have continued to live without joy, his life would have never returned to a right relationship with the Lord, and the Book of Psalms would have never been penned, because David would have continued to walk out of the will of God. When we reject to listen to personal confrontation from a godly friend who has been ordered into our lives by the very person of God we will find everything around our lives come spiraling out of control and down to the ground often times. How can we know that the confrontation is from the Lord? **First**, the person often used by God, doesn't really desire their mission, but they are willing to do so to honor and obey God. **Second**, the person sent into our lives will have a godly life. It is not the nature of God to bring ungodly people into our lives to redirect our lives, but those who love Him and are sensitive to His voice. **Third**, there will be an inner knowledge on our part that we need the confrontation. David didn't deny the confrontation, because he

knew that he had sinned before God and needed God's loving redirection. The truth is, our heart knows it bitterness and when we need a point of contact from others. (See Prov. 14:10)

**2. AN ABSENCE OF INNER JOY.** A reading of this chapter reveals one sobering reality- there was no inner joy in the life of David. As a matter of fact, in verse 12, David requests of the Lord to restore to him the joy of the Lord's salvation. But a lack of inner joy is part of the process that God uses to bring us back to him after we have devastated our lives. The God that has created us has created us in such a way that rebellion and joy are mutually exclusive in our hearts. Whenever there is rebellion in our hearts there will be no joy. But whenever there is true inner joy in our hearts we can know that our hearts are not rebellious but desiring to be obedient to the Lord. After David had violated his body and the body of Bathsheba, God removed the inner joy that he had known so many times as David walked before God. When David experienced no joy day after day, no doubt each day became harder than the previous, yet all of that was divinely orchestrated by God to draw him back into an intimate relationship with the Lord in spite of what he had done. When we walk day after day in exactly the same way- where there is no joy in our heart, our lives, over the smallest thing- God is sending us a wake up call and a sobering reminder that we are out of His will.

There will be no true lasting joy until we have dealt with our sins according to God's design. But at the moment we do deal with our sins, God will send all the joy of heaven back into our lives and hearts. Why does God remove joy? Had David sinned against God and not had an absence of joy in his life, he would have never realized how tragic and devastating his actions were, neither would he have made the adjustments in his life to return to God and repent. Consider this example- imagine having pain in your body but not having the capability of feeling the pain. The result would be further pain, trouble, problem and even death. But pain is God's warning in our body that something is wrong and needs to be addressed. So it is with an absence of inner joy. **AN ABSENCE OF INNER JOY IS GOD'S SOBERING WAKE UP CALL THAT WE ARE OFF COURSE IN OUR LIVES AND WE NEED TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE.**

**3. AN OVERWHELMING SENSE OF GUILT.** God has made us in such a way that whenever we have sinned against Him, and have devastated our lives, He will send into our hearts an overwhelming sense of guilt to the point that we have difficulty looking at any godly person square in the eyes because of our personal guilt. God does not send us guilt to make life hard on us, but rather God knows that a sense of guilt is necessary to bring us to the point of dealing with our sins and turning to Him in genuine repentance. God wanted David to experience joy, laughter, happiness more than David could ever desire it for himself. But God knew that the process for David and for us as well was to experience overwhelming guilt.

Guilt is that "inner knowing" on our part of what we have done to separate ourselves from a loving, holy Father who loves us with an infinite love. David could have argued that other people were doing the same thing, but that would not have removed his guilt. His guilt was with him 24/7. David said in verse 3, "*...my sin is ever before me.*" Every morning he woke up, he stared at the guilt of his sin as he awoke. Throughout the day, as he attempted to lead the nation, his sin stared him in the face. Whenever he would lay down to sleep, his sin was ever in the forefront of his mind. No doubt David never thought that it would be that way, but that is exactly the way the guilt of sin works. It was through the process of being broken that God was slowly but surely bringing David back to Himself. Whenever we have devastated our lives, God will allow us the same process of brokenness in order to bring us to genuine, true and honest repentance in order that we can walk in an intimate relationship with God once again.

**4. ACCEPTANCE AND OPENNESS TO GOD'S WORD.** Only God knows David's life would be different if this chapter had never been penned or been a part of David's heart. Irregardless of how difficult it may have been for David to hear the words of Nathan, David accepted the open rebuke of Nathan and through the process of time, came back to an intimate relationship with the Lord God. Had David rejected Nathan, God's Word, David also would have probably been cast from the throne like King Saul before him.

The route to recovery in our personal lives takes place, no other way as well. Whenever we have devastated our lives through reckless decisions, disobedient actions, or rebellious behavior, God will send His Word into our lives to redirect the course of our life. While we choose what we will do with the Word of God in a personal way, there is one sobering truth- to accept God's Word and be open to it will be healing to our lives and our homes, but to reject accepting God's Word will result in our lives spiraling downward until we are utterly devastated, and we have ultimately ruined the totality of our lives. To look at King Saul in a "before and after" scenario is sobering. Before he disobeyed the Lord God, he was blessed and a blessing but at the end of he ending taking his own life by falling on a sword in the heat of a battle. (See 1 Sam. 31:5)

When we are willing to accept God's Word irregardless of how painful it may hurt initially and adjust our lives to the truth of the Word of God, we will always be blessed. A look at David's life "before and after" his confession reveals a man who was miserable, in dire straits, never having joy, and always feeling guilty. But when he accepted God's Word, applied God's Word, listened to God's messenger, His life went spiraling upward. That is exactly what will happen in and to our lives as we obey the principles and truth of God's Word. Yes, there will be pain, but the confession after the pain, and the peace that we experience outweighs the pain a million times over.