

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**

Topic: Dramatic Life & Times of King David (3 of 4)  
Teacher: Deacon Ade Adedeji

Text: Psalm 51, I Samuel 16-31, II Samuel  
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**Lessons from David's Struggle with Sin**

Following the original sin, humanity became corrupted thereby normalizing sin. This is why a young child does not need to be taught how to tell a lie or to steal. David confirmed this in Psalm 51:5 when he admitted he was born a sinner. Despite God describing David as a man after His own heart, we previously examined multiple sins in David's life. Even our Lord Jesus Christ did not escape temptation to sin!

**Question: How many times was Jesus tempted?**

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Even for born-again Christians, though we have a new nature, our humanity still makes temptation to sin inevitable. According to Matthew 18:7 & Luke 17:1, the stumbling blocks of sin must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

**Question: How many times can we believers expect to be tempted?**

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God chose to instead focus us towards our new nature. In other words, the point of our salvation is not that we are sinners trying to avoid sin; rather we now share the nature of Christ which gives us victory over sin. Indeed when we sin as believers, we are stepping out of our new nature. This is why continued willful sin is incompatible with our salvation. David spoke prophetically in Psalm 51 of the kind of the righteous living that the Church will enjoy because of the redemptive work of Christ on the cross.

*10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. 13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. 14 Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness... 16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. (Psalm 51 KJV)*

A broken and contrite heart is a heart that constantly longs after God's heart. This is the kind of heart that knows its limitation and knows that its pursuit of God is where it finds fulfillment and actualization. We must constantly be alert because our adversary is constantly looking to make us stumble. After tempting Jesus, Satan left him only for a season (Luke. 4:13). Jesus constantly faced situations where his obedience was tested... "For we do not have a high priest incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15

Is it possible for believers to lose their broken and contrite heart? Indeed willful sin leads to hardness of heart (Romans 1:24, Psalm 81:12, Ephesians 2:3). For us Christians, our focus must be this – "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 2 Timothy 2:19

**Compelled By Love, God Admonishes Us To Avoid Sin**

God proactively decided to introduce the concept of discipline as a way to help us overcome sin. He knows that our frail human nature means we need His correction from time to time (Psalm 103:14). Note that discipline encompasses instruction and corrective actions in the eventuality that we do sin. When David said "thy rod and

thy staff, they comfort me,” he understood that through God’s love, God’s rod & staff provides direction and correction at the same time. In 1 Corinthians 11:32, the Lord reveals that he disciplines us so as to protect us from the general condemnation of the world. He also disciplines us to cleanse us (Proverbs 20:30). He does this by providing us His word as a guide. *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path Psalm 119:105. We are blessed when we keep his testimonies and seek Him with all of our heart. This enables us to avoid iniquity (sin) and to walk in His ways (v 2-3). By taking heed to the word of God, we cleanse our way (v 9).*

### **Even After Sin, God Disciplines Us With Love**

Some of the episodes recorded in David’s life give us a glimpse of how God addressed sins that David committed. As we review two case studies, we must remember that God disciplines us out of love. In Revelation 3:19, Jesus proclaimed “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.”

#### God’s Reaction to David’s Sin involving Uriah (2 Samuel 12)

- David committed adultery and subsequently committed murder
- God sent the Prophet Nathan to David to underscore the importance of the message, see David’s reaction and to let David contextualize the punishment that was coming
- Though God sent Nathan with a heavy message, Nathan applied wisdom in delivery (vs 1-4)
- Nathan appealed to David’s sense of justice and hypocrisy at same time
- In the rebuke, God reminded David of their relationship and the blessings David enjoyed (v 7-8)
- God then announces David’s punishment
  - David’s wife will also be taken by another in a very public way (vs 11-12)
  - The son born in that act of sin was to die because God took the act as contemptful to His person
- However because David repented, God was merciful to David and did not punish him according to David’s own standard (v 5)
- Notwithstanding the pronouncement, David was so assured that God could still be gracious hence he fasted and prayed further after his son became ill and until he died
- While mourning the death, David comforted his wife and that child was loved of God and infact named Jedidiah
- God gave David’s army a big victory at Rabbah

#### God’s Reaction to David’s Sin involving Census (2 Samuel 24:1-17)

- After a great victory over Philistines, Satan incited David to order a census (v 1)
- Joab warned David against such a move indicating God’s mercy (v 3)
- After the act, David came to acknowledge he had done a wrong (v 8)
- God sent the Prophet Gad to tell David he had three options (v 12)
  - Three years of famine
  - Three months of being subject to enemy victories
  - Three days of the Lord’s sword
- David wisely chose the Lord’s sword because he reasoned that God is ultimately merciful (v 13)
- He thereafter obeyed God’s instruction and built an altar at Araunah’s threshing floor and paid 600 shekels of Gold for the land (quite a considerable sum).

### **Conclusion**

For God, discipline is never an end in of itself and God has a very balanced approach to discipline – He is the ever just God. He disciplines out of love and he would never allow us to get overwhelmed. Infact every discipline from God is a blessing whether it seems that way or not! According to Job 5:17-18, "Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal."