

RENEW

ENERGY FOR YOUR JOURNEY

“Restoring Your Soul, Renewing Your Heart”

For the week of January 21 - January 27, 2018

Warm Up:

What is the worst thing you ever did as a kid?

Open in Prayer

Main Thought and Passage:

King David was a humble shepherd boy who became known for killing Goliath. Twenty years later, he became a powerful king who became complacent and entitled. In a time where he should have been leading troops in battle, he lounged at home where he fell to temptation. He was in a place he shouldn't have been at that moment, seeing what he shouldn't have seen, and ended up doing what he shouldn't have done. When finally confronted by the prophet Nathan, scripture says he humbled himself and confessed his sins to God. Though immediately forgiven, David suffered consequences for his moral collapse. He saw part of the kingdom removed from him for a time and witnessed abuse and betrayal within his own immediate family.

We all experience failure. When we do, our soul and heart is deeply affected. When that happens, we learn from King David on how to be restored and renewed. Psalm 51 expresses his prayer of repentance:

“Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. ⁹Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. ¹¹Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. ¹³Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. ¹⁴Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.” (Psalm 51:7-14 NLT)

(Turn over for continuation...)

David eventually bounced back from his moment of brokenness. The kingdom taken from him was restored, a brilliant son and successor was born, key victories in battle were won, and David was allowed to prepare the way for a magnificent temple to be constructed. When there is repentance, there always is a tomorrow.

Four takeaways:

- Choose to be rightly engaged and focused. Avoid complacent drift.
- Allow for accountability. Allow people to get close and speak into your life.
- Confess sin honestly. Own up to God, and do a turnaround.
- Ask God to redeem our failure by using it to help others.

Scripture Exploration:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and David's prayer in Psalm 51?

Personal Reflection:

- What personal failure has impacted you the most? What happened and what did you learn?
- In what ways are failures of the past still affecting you today? What are some of the lies you have believed about yourself as a result of failure?

Active Application:

- How were you able to bounce back from failure? How can you leverage lessons learned from past failure to encourage others?

Close in Prayer:

- Pray for God to heal, restore, and renew our soul from residue of past failures.
- Pray for God to use us to redeem the life of one person by helping them walk in discipleship.
- Pray for those who responded during the Christmas season to return, stick, and become devoted followers of Christ.

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