

MODEL PRAYER #6 – GOD FORGIVES THE TRULY PENITENT

Our Father – *Like a Child, I Trust in Your Goodness, Mercy and Love.*

In Heaven – *I am Humbled by Your Infinite, All-Powerful Nature.*

Hallowed Be Your Name – *I am Devoted to Giving You Praise, Honor and Glory.*

Your Will Be Done – *Help Me to Submit My Heart and Life to You.*

Give Us Our Daily Bread – *Help Me to be Content to do Your Will Today.*

Forgive Us Our Debts – *Help Me to Repent of My Sins and Be Merciful to Others.*

I. The Seriousness of Sin

Isaiah 59:1-2 (ESV) ¹*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*

- **ONE SIN** separated Adam & Eve (*Gen. 3:23-24*)
- Nadab and Abihu were struck dead for the **ONE SIN** of offering strange fire (*Lev. 10:1-2*)
- Uzzah was struck dead for the **ONE SIN** of touching the ark (*2 Sam. 6:6-7*)

II. Let's Understand True Repentance

2 Corinthians 7:5-12 (NKJV) ⁵For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears. ⁶Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more. ⁸For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. ⁹Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. ¹⁰For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. ¹²Therefore, although I wrote to you, I did not do it for the sake of him who had done the wrong, nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear to you.

<https://westpalmbeachchurchofchrist.com/2-corinthians/true-repentance.html>

Godly sorrow produces diligence. Godly sorrow immediately wants to do something about the wrong that was committed. There a diligence and earnestness about what has happened. The person will not shrug off the sin as nothing.... There is not an indifference toward what they have done nor do they expect others to be indifferent toward them. They recognize the gravity of the sin. This diligence is also seen in a strong desire to clear your name, remove the stigma the sin, rid yourself of the guilt, and prove yourself to be trustworthy again. Godly sorrow wants to make right what was done wrong. The truly repentant do not say, "Oh well. We are all human. We all sin." True repentance accepts the sin and tries to right the wrong. Further, true repentance shows indignation....We will be upset by what we have done. We will be ashamed

of what we have done. We will be upset that we have offended God. Not only this, true repentance reveals fear. Some translations read “alarm” (NRSV, NIV). Think about the conviction those people at Pentecost showed when they were told that they had crucified the Christ. Acts 2:37 tells us that they were cut to the heart and cried out, “What should we do?” They are showing fear and alarm when they were confronted with their sin. Their response is to do something about what they have done. True repentance also shows longing and zeal. Again we are seeing an emphasis on the fact that repentance means action....They do not merely say, “I am sorry.” There is a zeal that is immediately provoked within the person to do right, to correct the error, and to restore yourself as trustworthy and faithful. You are willing to go the extra mile to do right. Finally, Paul says “what vindication!” The Greek word can also mean “vengeance.” The point seems to be the desire for justice and a correction of the wrong. The idea is continued in the next sentence, “At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.” They handled their rebuke and correction of sin properly. They accepted that they had done wrong and are quickly responding with a godly response of grief, eagerness, diligence, and longing for what is right. This is what true repentance looks like. Godly grief produces repentance that leads to salvation without regret. There is no regret at the end of this process. There is just joy. Joy that sin was confronted. Joy that the sin was responded to with godly grief. Joy that repentance occurred. Joy in the salvation of the soul.

But worldly sorrow leads to death.... Any response that is not the response that Paul just described is worldly grief and not true repentance. When a person is confronted by their sins and their response is excuses, deflection, anger, bitterness, resentment, self-pity, wounded pride, withdrawing from others, defensiveness, self-justification, and the like, then you are not seeing repentance. It does not matter if they say the words that they repent. It does not matter if they come forward and claim repentance on the front pew. If we see excuses, anger at others, resentment at being confronted, defensiveness, or any of the other above responses, it is not godly sorrow leading to true repentance. The false repentance has a different motive. The motive is to relieve the stress on their life and improve their own circumstances. True repentance does not care about the consequences but just wants things to be made right. False repentance is offered to get people off their backs and to try to improve their own life circumstances.

III. DAVID’S Confession of Sin – Psalm 51

2 Samuel 12:13 (NKJV) ¹³So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”....

- We live only by the King’s **mercy** (1-2)
- The King is perfectly **just** to judge us (3-4)
- The King gives victory over the flesh only when we have **truth** in the inner man (5-6)
- The King can fully **restore & renew** joy and a willing spirit (7-12)
- The King expects us to bear **fruits** worthy of repentance (13-17)
- The King will do good to **His glory** (18-19)

Psalms 51:1-19 (ESV)

¹ Have mercy on me, **God**, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and

blameless in your judgment.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; ¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

IV. "I Have Sinned" – Examples of Insincere Confession

Pharaoh – Hardened

Exodus 9:25-30 (NKJV) ²⁵And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that *was* in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. ²⁶Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel *were*, there was no hail. ²⁷**And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "I have sinned this time.**

The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. ²⁸Entreat the Lord, that there may be no *more* mighty thundering and hail, for *it is* enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer." ²⁹So Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, that you may know that the earth *is* the Lord'S. ³⁰But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the Lord God." **Exodus 9:34 (NKJV)** ... ³⁴And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, he and his servants.

Balaam – Double-Minded

Numbers 22:32-34 (NKJV) ³²And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because *your* way is perverse before Me. ³³The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live." ³⁴**And Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back."**

Saul – Self-Serving

1 Samuel 15:24-30 (NKJV) ²⁴Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. ²⁵Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord." ²⁶But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel." ²⁷And as Samuel turned around to go away, *Saul* seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸So Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of

yours, *who is* better than you. ²⁹And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He *is* not a man, that He should relent.” ³⁰Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.”

Achan – Caught

Joshua 7:20-21 (NKJV) ²⁰And Achan answered Joshua and said, “**Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done:** ²¹When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.”

Judas – Cowardly

Matthew 27:3-5 (NKJV) ³Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴saying, “**I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*”** ⁵Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.