

REPENTING FOR ANY SINS

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

PRECEPT

PSALM 32:1-11

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

² Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. ³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Read the rest of verses 6-11.)

PROMISE

Sometimes seasons of God's silence are a spiritual test. Will we be faithful to seek Him and trust Him even when all is not well? Other times, we may be experiencing separation from God because of hidden or unconfessed sin in our hearts. *"Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!"* (Psalm 66:16–20). This realization that sin hinders our prayer life is repeated in 1 Peter 3:7 where Peter instructs husbands to be considerate toward their wives and to treat them with respect *"so that nothing will hinder your prayers."* We must not harden our hearts to disregard God's Word on a particular matter. If we cherish or treasure sin even in a secret place, it will hinder our spiritual health and directly affect our relationship with God, even putting a serious blockade on our prayer life.

THE PARDON OF GOD. Psalm 32:1–2 addresses the pardon of God to those whose sins are forgiven. There are blessed, joyful, and fulfilled.

THE PERIL OF UNCONFESED SIN. Verses 3–5 describe the painful process that it took for David, the author of this psalm, to finally come to a place of repentance. He ignored his sin until God's "hand was heavy on" him, increasing his discomfort and sorrow.

THE PROCESS OF CONFESSION. When David finally acknowledged his sin, repented, and confessed (vv. 4–5), God forgave him. Sometimes the pain of God's silence is a direct result of our stubborn unwillingness to repent. But we can find comfort in knowing that as soon as we humble ourselves, confess, and come to God in repentance, He is faithful to forgive us and restore us.

THE PROTECTION OF GOD. In verses 6–7, David encourages us to confess our sins before it's too late. He wants us to experience God's protection and victory over sin, and be free from the burden of sin.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD. God wants to be with us, to be actively involved in our journey in life. He is just waiting for us. David added in verse 9, *"Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."* In God's mercy and kindness, He doesn't just give up on us and let us go our own destructive way. But, as this psalmist urges, that's not the best way. God would much rather we obey him out of our own desire to please Him than out of an avoidance of pain.

THE PROMISE OF GOD. Not all suffering comes because of sin; just look at the book of Job! But if we are facing a dark season where God seems far away, it cannot hurt to ask ourselves honestly, "Am I hiding any sin in my life? When was the last time I heard the Lord instruct me? Did I obey it?" We can also take comfort in knowing that God does not want us to stay in our sin; He will help us search our hearts in order to be free from sin. If we have honestly humbled ourselves before the Lord and cannot find any rebellion, we can rest in knowing that the Lord's "unfailing love surrounds" those who trust Him (v. 10).

PRACTICE

1. Psalm 32:3. What does this passage tell us about the consequences of sin?

2. Repentance. Is there anything in your life that you need to confess to God today?

PRAYER

I. Joy

- Help us to learn to be happy and to be joyful in all circumstances. Help us to live a life full of gratitude to God.

II. Wisdom

- Pray for wisdom to know the will of God and obey it at all costs. May He give us perseverance to seek Him.

III. Humility

- May we always be humble in soul and body, in mind, in desire, in speech, in thought, & in outward appearance.

IV. Guidance

- Pray that we may entrust our lives to God; our decisions and our future. May we lean to Him with all our hearts.

V. Strength

- Pray for strength, comfort, and peace in difficult and trying times.

VI. Edmonton

- Let us pray for the welfare of this city. Pray for the deliverance and salvation of those living in Edmonton.

VII. Canada

- Pray that the Prime Minister will seek God's wisdom & counsel in all his actions on behalf of this country.