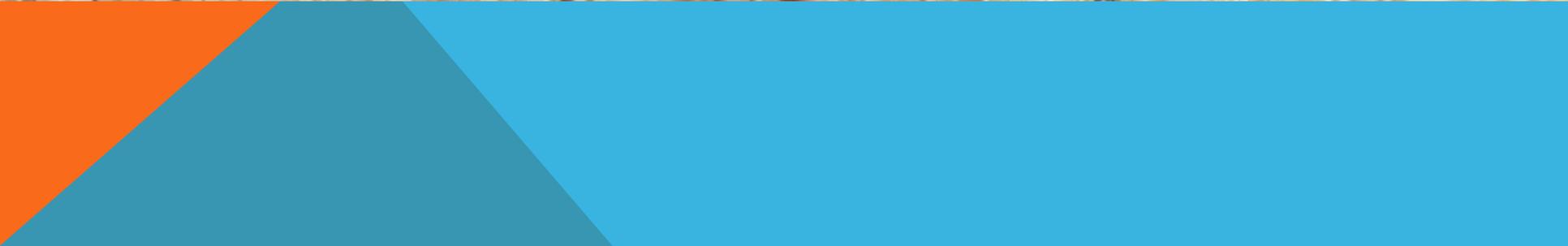


A small green seedling with two leaves is growing out of a hole in the sand. The sand is light-colored and textured. The seedling is positioned on the right side of the frame. The background is a close-up of the sand.

GROWING THROUGH OUR CHALLENGES





**TODAY: GETTING PAST YOUR
SIN**

PSALM 51

PSALM 51

Be gracious to me, God,
according to Your faithful
love; according to Your
abundant compassion,
blot out my rebellion.

² Wash away my guilt and
cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I am conscious of my
rebellion, and my sin is
always before me.

⁴ Against You—You alone—I
have sinned and done this
evil in Your sight. So You are
right when You pass
sentence; You are
blameless when You judge.

⁵ Indeed, I was guilty when I
was born; I was sinful when
my mother conceived me.

PSALM 51, CONT

⁶ Surely You desire integrity
in the inner self,
and You teach me
wisdom deep within.

⁷ Purify me with hyssop,
and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be
whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and
gladness;
let the bones You have
crushed rejoice.

⁹ Turn Your face away from
my sins
and blot out all my guilt.

¹⁰ God, create a clean heart
for me
and renew a steadfast
spirit within me.

PSALM 51, CONT.

**11 Do not banish me from
Your presence
or take Your Holy Spirit
from me.**

**12 Restore the joy of Your
salvation to me,
and give me a willing
spirit.**

**13 Then I will teach the
rebellious Your ways,
and sinners will return to
You.**

**14 Save me from the guilt of
bloodshed, God, the God
of my salvation, and my
tongue will sing of Your
righteousness.**

**15 Lord, open my lips, and
my mouth will declare
Your praise.**

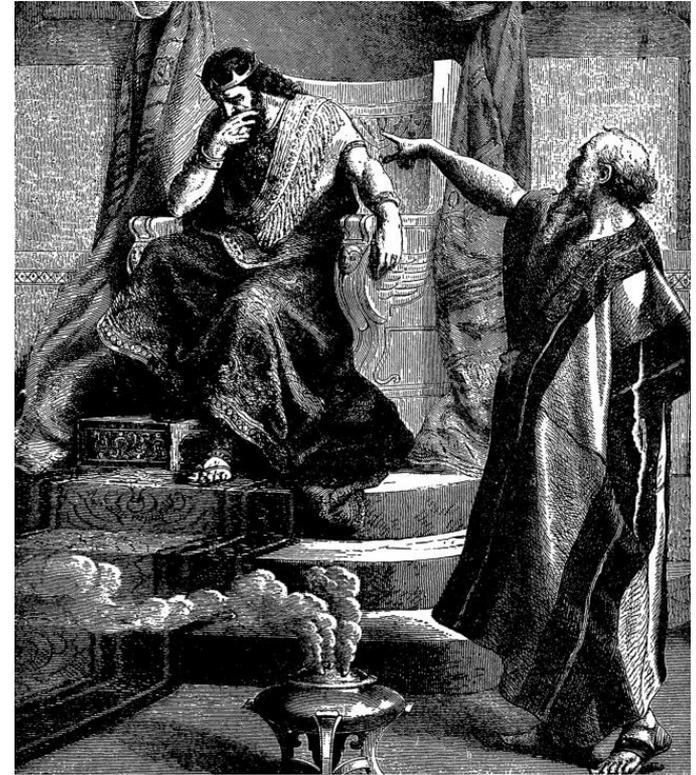
PSALM 51, CONT

- 16** You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it; You are not pleased with a burnt offering.
- 17** The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. God, You will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

- 18** In Your good pleasure, cause Zion to prosper; build the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19** Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

DAVID'S SIN WITH BATHSHEBA

- LUST + ADULTERY + MURDER
- DENIAL + PRETENSE + ARROGANCE
- CONFRONTATION + JUDGEMENT + CONSEQUENCE
- REPENTANCE + CONFESSION + FORGIVENESS + PSALM 51



THE PROBLEM OF GUILT AS A FEELING – SOME GUILT IS LEGITIMATE, BUT NOT ALL

- Guilt due to a failure to meet our parents expectations
- Guilt from emotional abuse, P.T.S.D., O.C.D.
- Guilt we feel because we are guilty
- Our consciences are seared as with a hot iron, 1 Tim. 4:2. They do not function perfectly.
- “...their consciences also bearing witness, their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them” (Rom 2:15)

THE CHALLENGE OF GUILT AS A FACT

- How people try to resolve guilt
 - Comparison: “Well, at least I am better than some.”
 - Generalizations: “Well, none of us is perfect.”
 - Legalism: “I hope my good deeds outweigh my bad ones!”
 - Libertinism: “So what?!”
 - Numbing through substance abuse
 - Becoming mean, judgmental, angry, cynical
 - Deny that it even exists
- 

HOW DID DAVID GET PAST HIS SIN?

1. He confessed thoroughly and completely his moral failures
2. He accepted the method of God to deal with his sin
3. He committed himself to serve the Lord from that point on

We could call this “true repentance”



1. TRUE REPENTANCE CONFESSES SIN AS DEEPLY AS POSSIBLE, PSALM 51:3-6

- David knew he could never escape his conscience and the convicting power of God.
 - David realized that all sin, in one way or another, is against God. He is the Creator.
 - David realized that the sin problem is connected to human beings as a race.
 - David desired “truth in the inner parts,” “wisdom in the inmost place.” He wanted God to search his soul deeply.
- 

CONFESSION MEANS TO AGREE WITH GOD

- Only God can reveal to us the true nature of our sin.
- Worldly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:10) is guilt without hope or remedy. When God's Spirit convicts us He also convinces us that there is a solution to our sin.
- Take time to delve honestly into the nature of your sin and bring it all to God. "They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious" (Jeremiah 6:14 and 8:11)

THE PRODIGAL SON: BEFORE AND AFTER



2. TRUSTS IN GOD'S PLAN, 51:7-12

- “Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean” – this is a reference to the Passover Lamb, an image of the cross.
 - In the death of Christ our sins are paid for: “God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement...” (Rom 3:25)
 - Through Christ we become the righteousness of God: “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - We are made alive in Christ: “God...made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions”
- 

HANGING ON TO GUILT FEELINGS ...

- Reveals a lack of confidence in the work of Christ. “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification” (Rom. 4:25)
 - Reveals an effort to justify our self, to earn our own salvation – something that we cannot do.
 - Hanging on to guilt can be a reflection of our pride, an inflated sense of personal significance and power.
 - Study of the biblical doctrines of redemption and personal meditation on the cross are therapeutic tools.
- 

DAVID'S PRAYER

- He had felt inwardly like someone whose bones were crushed. He asked not just for tolerance but for rejoicing.
 - He cried for his sins to be blotted out, “whiter than snow”
 - He longed for a clean heart and a steadfast spirit
 - He prayed that the damage would not be permanent: His prayer for God not to take the Holy Spirit from him was an Old Testament prayer.
 - He prayed for a willing spirit, a new heart to sustain him in following the will of God. True repentance turns around and heads in the right direction.
- 

3. COMMITMENT TO A NEW DIRECTION, 51:13-17

- **Humility:** He committed himself to be a humble instrument of God. As a redeemed sinner, he could be God's instrument to help others.
- **Honesty:** "Save me from bloodguilt" is an honest cry, due to the nature of the death of Uriah, he had deceived himself as though he were not to blame. Now he accepts his guilt and confesses and pleads for forgiveness.
- **Sincerity:** "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."
- He trusted God to cover his shame.

THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY, JOHN 8:1-11

Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

“No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

