No Revival Without Repentance
Psalm 51:1-12

Introduction: Second revival practice

- An ongoing repentance for relationships

The damage of sin and shame

- ____ gets sucked out of your life by sin and shame.
- The _____ that you have for God gets suffocated by sin and by shame.
- If you don't learn how to deal with those things, you won't recover your joy or your passion. You won't be _____.

The example of King David

- David was a sinner, but he was also the king of Israel during a time of incredible prosperity and blessing.
- At the peak of his career, David fell into multiple sins that divided his family and even divided the nation.
- God sent David a messenger to say, “Will you repent?” Repent means to turn from your sin and turn to God.
- When David broke down in tears and repented, he wrote Psalm 51, the chapter to go to anytime you need to be restored to God.

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David's Prayer

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight; so You are right in Your verdict and justified when You judge.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Psalm 51:1-4, 8-9

What can you do with your shame, regrets, and mistakes?

- Bring your shame, stains, and regrets to God in a heart of _____.

- Repentance is not intended to be a once-in-a-lifetime event for a Christian. For salvation, God definitively adopts you into His family. But because we still have an old sin nature, we must learn how to repent daily so that our _____ with God has no sin between us and God.

- There is sorrow in repentance because you have to acknowledge what you've done wrong, but the goal of repentance is _____ relationship.

1 John 1:9

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Three truths about repentance that leads to revival:

1. **Repentance is about _____, not _____.**

- If you just focus on your perfection, it will lead you to depression because we are not perfect.
- God doesn't call us to repent so that we become perfect; He calls us to repent so that we can be in unbroken relationship with Him.
- At its simplest, repentance is telling God, *"God, I'm sorry. I choose You."*

break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness on you.

Hosea 10:12b

- Fallow ground is soil that has been packed down hard by snow, rain, and the spring sun until it is crusted over like concrete. Seeds dropped on it bounce right off.
- Human hearts get hardened by the cares of this world. When your heart is hard, the perfect scripture or sermon will just bounce right off.
- Farmers use huge blades to break up the hard soil at the top and stir up the soft soil at the bottom.
- Biblical Repentance is saying, *"God, I give you permission to break up my hardened heart."* It might hurt or bring tears, but joy always follows because the seeds of scripture can finally take root again.

For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2 Corinthians 7:10

For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Psalm 30:5

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2. Repentance ends in ____, not _____.

- Repentance passes through shame, but it ends in joy.

- When repentance is not part of your daily life, you stop experiencing God in a dynamic, personal way because sin blocks your ability to perceive Him.

- Repentance is not about shaming yourself, it's about continually telling God you love Him more than any sin or distraction.

- Ongoing repentance as a lifestyle is a hallmark of a mature Christian.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Psalm 51:12

3. Repentance is about going out to _____ God.

- It is not just about trying to avoid sin. If you just try not to sin, you'll fail. If you try to love God, walk with Him, and serve Him, sin starts to look nasty and unappetizing.

- The Athletic Analogy: Great athletes miss more shots than they make. The goal out on the field isn't to make zero mistakes; the goal is to recover quickly and learn from them.

- Do not pretend you are not a sinner. The goal is to live for God, run after Him, go after His kingdom, and be on mission. When the Holy Spirit reveals a sin, treat it as a learning opportunity, get up, and keep going.

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Conclusion

- We run to God with our mistakes because His unconditional _____ is bigger than our _____.
- His _____ is more powerful than your guilt or shame. So, don't live your life hiding in isolation, cowering in shame.
- Run to the One who always receives you and who wants to ____ you from ___.

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you seen shame tempt you to hide from God rather than run to Him?

2. If the goal of our faith isn't to keep rules and avoid mistakes, but rather to maintain an open, unhindered friendship with our Father, how does that change the way you handle your daily failures?

3. In Hosea 10, we are told to "break up your fallow ground." What are the specific distractions or "cares of this world" in your busy schedule that tend to harden the soil of your heart and make you less sensitive to God's Word?

4. John Dickerson uses the analogy of a clogged bathroom sink to show how unconfessed sin blocks the flow of the fruits of the Spirit without taking away your salvation. What "sneaky" daily sins tend to gunk up your spiritual life?

5. When Peter returns to Jesus after failing Him completely, Jesus doesn't ask, *"Why weren't you perfect?"* instead, He repeatedly asks, *"Do you love me?"* How does knowing that God responds to your failures with an invitation to love Him change how quickly you are willing to repent?

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