

Fruit of Repentance // Psalm 51 // Bearing Fruit #1

Greeting: Hello Church, my name is Raudel, and for those of you that don't know me, I've been attending The Summit for 9 years, and working here for almost 8. I'm delighted to share God's Word with you today.

Intro: Today we start a new series on bearing fruit.

Your life and my life will naturally bear a visible fruit of that which we love.... For example, I really like sports cars and road course racing, and if you go to my garage, I don't even have to tell you about it as it bears fruit of it (posters of race cars hanging, a helmet, stickers of VIR, etc.)

- We are always making a disciple of something by the fruit we bear, and so in this series we want to give you what are some of the marks of those who follow Jesus...
- And this week we decided to kick off the series by giving me the most UNPOPULAR fruit...☺ ("thank you" C. Pappalardo & pastor JD Greear; you always give me the tough one...). Today I have been tasked to talk to you about the fruit of repentance.

It's unfortunate that this is an unpopular fruit, for many reasons (that I hope you see throughout the message today...) confession and repentance are so absent from the church today....

- One of the greatest misconceptions about the church (God's people) is that we don't sin almost at all, and that's how most church people pretend or portray to be... sinless... they live superficial lives of fake smiles, and sadly, God's people, over time have learned to hide sin, and hide sorrow, from everyone... because of a silly unbiblical pressure to look like you have it all together.... **People have no clue what repentance is because they never see it in you... "ur fine now"**
- We are so hard to open up about our struggles that no wonder our neighbors think we are so foreign and unapproachable....
- The church is not a showcase of Colgate smiles, it's a hospital of sinners, and part of the reason there is a lack of revival in families / part of the reason why moms and dads don't have awesome worship services at their house with their kids and glorious times of awesome prayer in your room is because there is NO lifestyle of VISIBLE confession and repentance before the Lord and to one another.... **So many families today (so called Christian families) don't even know**

what to do when the music ends, because when the music ends the worship ends / is over for them, the music moves them more than the God of music

Psalm 51 is a Psalm of David after David did a lot of sinning....

I want us to look at that Psalm today, but right off the bat allow me to tell you this; the King before David was King Saul, and: King Saul and King David, where not different because Saul sinned and David didn't; NO, they both did a great deal of sinning, **Saul and David where different because David knew to live a life of repentance, and Saul didn't.** 2x

- There are really only two groups of people, those who live a life of repentance, and those who don't... and those are the only two types of people listening to me right now... you are either following on the steps of David in repentance or the steps of Saul in rebellion

Psalm 51, verse 1, here we see:

1. David is helpless, and turns to his only hope (verse 1)

Psalm 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

When you think, "well, repentance is only for the guilty" you have forgotten that you too are guilty, that **we are all guilty**.... For David, he had committed sexual immorality (slept with another's man's woman), then arranged for that woman's husband to be left alone in the battle field so that he may die (so he contributed to murder), and then David lied about the whole thing.... And now he is openly admitting guilt and is desperate for forgiveness and restoration... notice neither he nor The Bible hide any of this, because hidden sin kills/zaps the soul of life... and the modern church has forgotten that... I know confession is not good for your reputation, oh but is sooo good for the soul. It's silly how people don't come out in the open with all their filth so that there can be real forgiveness, true restoration, true correction through Gods Word....

- Repentance is a lifestyle of living hanging of the mercies of Jesus; **if you feel like you don't need repentance, then you don't know God at all.**
- We know David is a believer because he knows he needs to repent

2. He prays for cleansing of his sins (verse 2 & 7)

So he turns to mercy first (namely God) and once there, asks God for cleansing

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Hyssop was a branch that was used by the priest, dipped in the blood (because the penalty for sin is death, and the priest represented the people before God, they would take a lamb that was clean, and sacrifice it for their sins, as a substitute for them, and so the priest will dip the hyssop branch in the blood of the lamb so that through that sacrifice and blood, he would declare the people forgiven) so this sacrificial system hinted to David that his forgiveness would cost God personally.

Only Christ's innocent blood could ultimately erase your guilt...

Only Christ's perfect record of righteousness can substitute for your iniquities once and for all...

And only Christ's Spirit can regenerate the will...

David is saying, *"God, no human priest can help me, I am guilty, only YOU GOD by your almighty power if you so wish can make me clean... I beg you... if you God don't become my priest and dab the blood on me and declare me clean by your mercy, I am lost, I am done."*

- **It is** appropriate that Christians ask for forgiveness, 1st John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9 Perhaps you say, *"but pastor, didn't Jesus forgive us of all our sins? Doesn't it say two verses before in 1st John that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sins, past, present, and future? Why ask for forgiveness then?"* – Yes, but that doesn't replace our asking;
- Listen: **The cross is not the reason we don't ask, the cross is the very reason and the only reason why when we ask for forgiveness, the answer will be YES....** Daily... (1 John 1:9) **2x** So yes, we pray for forgiveness

3. David takes his sin very serious – we see it in a couple of ways...

David camps here / he is repetitive about acknowledging his sin; how different that is from us right? Someone calls out sin in our lives, points it out, and our first reaction rather than camping there is refusal, denial, and we run... yet David doesn't do that, that's the fruit of repentance / that's the mark of a Christian, that when we sin WE HUMBLE ourselves,

our response is repentance not rebellion. A christian says, *"you got me bro / u got me sis; help me... / I'm such a sinner and want to change"*

- David is not blaming his upbringing, he knows he is jacked up / a sinner (verse 5); he is not blaming anything else for his sins... / he is not calling his sins *"mistakes"*, he is calling it for what they are, sins against HOLY and GOOD God! **He is not making up excuses....**
- He is not saying he fell into temptation like if temptation surprised him and he was the victim... you don't just fall into temptation all of the sudden, you fall into temptation as a result of you intentionally walking right into it....
- **But I worry about some of you**, who say you are a christian but when the rubber meets the road / when the relationship deepens and that friend starts calling out sin in your life, you run in denial and try to justify your sin.... *That's not what David does / that's not what a christian does....* David goes the opposite direction a la John 3:20, he, (as painful as it may be) goes to the light... to be exposed... not like the ones in John 3:19 who hate the light and hate coming to the light.... **##us:** *If you call me out on something I am wrong about right after the sermon today, and I get bent out of shape, you should look for another preacher....* **If receiving correction is beneath me, calling myself a christian is above me;** much less preaching....

a) One of the reasons why we know David takes his sin seriously is because of verse 3:

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

- In other words, **"I cannot get my sin out of my mind..."**. If you don't care about God, you won't care about sin, but if you care about God you live humbled and your sin is ever before you.... Humble enough to close your mouth about other people's sin, because you are so overwhelmed with your own.... **Remember that a Pharisee is someone that's always noticing everybody else's sin, but a christian is always and continually aware of his and her own sin....**
- **Listen, you are going to be thinking about somebody's sin, the questions is "who's"? Your own, or somebody else's?**

b) Another reason we know David took his sin seriously is because he knew his sin was first and foremost against God, and second against others. Verse 4:

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

- The point here is not that others don't get hurt because of our sin, **oh they sure do, we never just "hurt ourselves" with our sin**; but the point here is that, what makes sin, "sin" is that it is against a holy God, of holy ways. / Sin by definition is transgression against God / Offense against God, He is all perfect/all good, we are not.
- And the closer we are with someone, the more it hurts when we fail them.... **Haven't you seen it in your own life? When you sin against the guy that cut you off in traffic and someone confronts you about it, doesn't hurt that much, is still sin but it doesn't hurt that much, but when you sin against a friend, your spouse, it hurts a lot because they are close to you; in the words of Pastor Miguel Nuñez "betrayal is always and only done by a friend"; how much more shouldn't it hurt when you sin against your maker, your friend, God**
- David doesn't try to minimize his sin, rather the contrary, and that my friends is an attitude to repentance... when you don't minimize your sin a bit.
- **There is healing there** because there is no lying.... No secrecy, **all is out in the light** so that The Lord may wash away your sins and wipe away your tears.
- You don't **just** need to be sincere, you need to be honest... **for you to be honest with yourself requires truth... - being sincere doesn't require truth, honesty does.... I've been sincere about many dumb things in my life, and I have been sincerely wrong... // fact vs feeling...** you can feel something is right and that you don't have to repent, but you can be sincerely wrong....
- If you want to heal deeply, **repent often**, honestly & deeply. **8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

4. Repentance doesn't just desire forgiveness, it desires God

Repentance leads you to wanting more than forgiveness; renewal. David wants renewal, closeness to God, for God is the highest desire and there is NO good apart from God.... Forgiveness it's awesome, it says **"your sentence has been paid, you may go"**, but the blotting out of sins / expiation says more than "you may go" it tells you, **"you may come!"**

- This is what David wants: **The Lord!** He wants The Lord over health and prosperity, he knows God plus nothing equals everything.

- Repentance leads you to God / **being forgiven when you know you didn't deserve it leads you to want to please the one who forgave you. God.**
- The mark of being forgiven is continuous repentance, a passion to continue to be transformed to the matchless beauty and holiness of Christ. **The end of theology is NOT knowledge but transformation.**
- If you are not fighting to be like Christ / if you don't see His beauty and majesty drawing you to Him daily, or if some dream makes your eyes glitter more than God does, I would repent today / **my Christ is matchless in beauty above all in heaven and earth!!!**
- When your sin is better than Christ to you, you desperately need a reality check / you need to SEE HIM so that you may see how puny the beauty of your sin is compare to Him who leads to life. You cannot be apathetic about Christ's beauty, hope, and his freedom!

In the words of the old puritan John Flavel:

"Just as all rivers meet in the ocean, all good things meet in God.

Why are your emotions and mine not satisfied by all the things we see here on earth? It's like carrying a large ship to a narrow channel, such that it cannot sail there, it will even touch bottom; but give that ship the space of the sea and such will run like the wind.

In the same way, everything here, everything that delights you on earth, all the comforts that you know and long for, they are all like narrow channels, small drops of pleasure that instead of satisfying you, rather, inflame the appetite of your soul.

But take your soul to Jesus / cry our to Christ, and in Him you will find floods of deep living water in which your soul will have the space of the sea to run freely for the first time."
- John Flavel

- That's what the rest of the chapter is about, David is looking not just for forgiveness, but for God / listen, David knows the problem that led him to sin was failing to see the beauty of Christ / replacing it with a lesser beauty, and so He pleads:

11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

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

- Your problem is not that you need a more joyful job, or a more joyful neighborhood or city, or a more joyful ride, friends or weekends; **your problem is that you have lost the joy of your salvation. We need to repent church. It is the very company of God that brings you joy in all situations 2x (no apartes de mi Tú Santo Espíritu / take not your Holy Spirit from me).** We are not to just be drawn by The Spirit but we exist to be HELD by The Spirit. **Human beings, not h doers....**
 - You can ride a \$100 thousand dollar car if you want, if you ride it with bad company, it's gonna be a bad ride... in the words of R.C, Sproul **it is not the faith that you profess but the faith that you possess.** You cannot walk with God and live a life w/o repentance.
- There is no holiness without repentance / you can't skip repentance to get to grace....
- And it's the very Spirit of God that gives us eyes to see what we need to repent about....
- Notice that David is not doing what many do, that is, when you sin, you put yourself a penance for having sinned, that only shows pride... (él no se pone un castigo, porque él sabe no puede pagar ese castigo)
- When you put on yourself a penance for having sinned, what you are actually doing is revealing a prideful attitude that believes you can make payment for that sin / you think you can atone for your sin fulfilling the sentence and penance you imposed over yourself, that's the opposite of repentance, repentance knows you can't do a thing about your debt, and so you trust someone stronger (name is Jesus) to pay it for you **because you CAN'T** –
- Paul Tripp says "*When you confess sins to God, you don't just admit that you have sinned; no, you also confess that you have NO power to deliver yourself from the sin you just confessed.*" That's repentance

5. A repented heart will ask for the heart of God

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

In this Psalm we see that:

Only a priest can cleanse the confessing sinner (that's Jesus),

Only a Judge can blot out your guilty record, that's God!

Only a creator can remake your heart, nobody but God the maker can do that.

- One of the most exciting things for me about Jesus's return is not the streets of gold or lack of suffering, is that there I will finally be able to please Him perfectly. I love HIM, I want to please Him fully... I don't know about you, but I am tired of my sin....
- At the very least church do not sin of lack of repentance....

BTW one of the most amazing things about this Psalm, is that David had sin of sexual immorality, murder, and lying, and there isn't a single direct word that mentions any of those 3 things in the Psalm... why? Because those specific sins are not the cause, but the symptom... 2x - p -. **The cause is pride and self-worship that leads to lack of repentance:**

- **Your problem is not a big sex drive, your problem is a big ego, and a tiny false god called "you".**
- The outward sins are a symptom of the disease, not the disease.
- **The main issue is lack of joy in our salvation, restore to me the joy of my salvation, the joy of His grace is enough 'cause there is nothing like it:**
 - When that joy fades, we start clicking on pornography
 - When that joy fades, we start day dreaming of everything but the mission of God, and think only of ourselves...
 - When that joy fades, we can start putting our eyes on someone other than our spouse, and get an emotional crush
 - And on, and on, and on; **every sin is a reflection of the absence of the only JOY that can truly satisfies us; Christ's.**
 - **And Repentance is fighting the flesh / fight for joy....**
- **Repentance is not just crying, is changing**
 - Did you know that Saul cry? He wept when David spared his life in 1 Samuel 24:16 – his weeping sounded like Saul was repenting, but it wasn't, because there was no change....

Repentance should be our daily bread...

- Sometime we are so worried about displaying a good testimony that we forget to display repentance as well.... We are so full of ourselves sometimes that we don't want to confess sin because we care too much about our reputation... about us; who is King? You or God?
- We don't repent because we want to look clean and look good...

- **Wanna know why many kids and teenagers don't know how to humble themselves? Because they have never seen you humble yourself / they have never seen you model repentance....**
- The end is not for us to just look clean but for us to point to the one that cleanses ALL of our sins. Is not about us. **Some of you look dangerously clean, guess what? You are not!**
- The evidence that you belong to Jesus / the evidence that you repented long ago is that you are still repenting today.
- Notice all throughout the Bible how God calls his people/the church to repent... all of life is repentance, not just the diving board....

Last thing and I finish now....

6. Repentance involves us in the mission of God

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, that's evangelism and sinners will return to you.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Beloved church: Results are NOT the fruit of giftedness but the fruit of grace through repentance 2x – talent doesn't save people, Christ does
Repentance says "relationship over results", **God over me, and others before me....**

- Usefulness is not the end; God is the end. God didn't create you primarily for usefulness, He created you for relationship with Him / not to first and foremost use you **but to know you...** / do you know Him? - p -
- If you are NOT bearing fruit, could it be because you have not yet repented? Could it be that as a believer you are blind to so many sins 'cause you don't see yourself that bad? - p - ~~Oh we are bad, cross...~~
- Any area you are withholding from God, any, is because of a lack of repentance, ~~believer or unbeliever~~ - p -

Repentance is: Confession, contrition, change

Confession is agreeing with God in your mind... that God is right, and that we are wrong...

Contrition shows you care about your sin and hurting God and others...

Change shows you actually love God and follow Him...

There are only two things you can do with this sermon, repentance or rebellion...

And if you would let me, let me finish using some words from Rosaria B: *"Repentance is bitter-sweet business, repentance is not just a conversion exercise, it's the posture of a christian... the christian learns how to melt the will into God's.*

Repentance liquefies the will of the flesh, it's our daily fruit, our hourly washing, our minute by minute wake up call, repentance is a reminder of God's creation, Jesus's blood and the Holy Spirit's comfort.

Repentance is the only NO shame solution to a renewed christian conscious, because it proves the obvious... that God was right all along. Repentance feels like death, because it is.

The you that once was is no longer. Even if your old feelings remain."

Rosaria C. Butterfield

Yes there is death, but there is a death that leads to life... a life so amazing it's impossible without repentance... **there is REST...**, no more pretention, no more having to live up to keep an image... // the path of repentance is the path of life....

- You may count the cost, and see repentance as a big hill, but there is no payback like God himself.

Don't give up now, let's fight the good fight.... All fruits are something **that grow**, the all have stages, **repentance is no different**

- Repentance is a changing of the mind, and that is a work that's continuous until the day we see Jesus
- I don't want you to dismay, do not faint, do not be discouraged, **but do grew in repentance**
- **Don't compare yourself to the puritans, you'll get depressed**; you cannot expect the repentance of someone who has been walking with God for 40 years... **Repentance starts with a simple cry, "Lord I'm falling, help me", help me see my sin, help me humble myself**
- **Believe!** Don't stay at "**I can't**", yes, repentance is recognizing you can't, but go a step further, **BELIEVE GOD CAN**
- God CAN! YES HE CAN! Yes HE will give you victory over sin; believe! That's salvation and sanctification.
- Look to Jesus!

We don't trust is a transaction / we don't trust is a mere prayer, we trust in The Lord of hosts. JESUS is the author and finisher of your faith, HE is your salvation, and your sanctification

- If you could see that what you are really giving up, doesn't compare to what you are really getting.... you won't lose much at all..

Whosoever may lose his life in Christ, will find it. Believe, repent.
Christ is better, He is greater.

Let us pray....

The sacrificial system hinted to David that his forgiveness would cost God personally.

Only Christ's innocent blood could ultimately erase human guilt...

Only Christ's perfect record of righteousness can substitute for iniquities...

And only Christ's Spirit can regenerate the will...

- Christ is the only sacrifice God has permanently delighted in (verse 16)
- Salvation is a gift granted by God's good pleasure, never in response to merit, not a reward, but a gift (verse 18)
- And joyful obedience, never pride, is the response to grace (verses 12 and 15)

BULLPEN:

Repentance makes you hate sin

Simultaneamente justo y pecador....

He is not blaming his upbringing, he knows he is jacked up / a sinner (verse 5); he is not blaming anything else for his sins... / he is not calling his sins mistakes, he is calling it for what they are, sins against God! He is not saying he fell into temptation like if temptation surprised him and he was the victim... you don't just fall into temptation all of the sudden, **you fall into temptation as a result of you intentionally walking right into it....**

Verse 9, "hide your face from my sins", only God can qualify a sinner to stand in His presence

Verse 17, only a priest can cleanse the confessing sinner (that's Jesus),
verse 9 only a Judge can blot out your guilty record, that's God!
And verse 10, only a creator can remake your heart, nobody but God the maker can do that.