

PRAYING EFFECTUAL PRAYERS-PART 5
PRAYING WHEN WE'VE SINNED
PSALM 6

Introduction

I preached for 9 ½ years in a couple of different prisons in Middle Tennessee back in the 1990's. Another name for a prison is a PENITENTIARY although they are getting away from calling them PENITENTIARIES OR PRISONS. For example, the names of the two prisons I preached in were: RIVERBEND MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTION
TURNERY CENTER INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

“To help inmates prepare themselves to rejoin the wider community, offers a wide range of work and treatment programs.”

If we had a foreigner in our midst that did not know English very well they might ask, "WHAT IS A PENITENTIARY?" Then we would tell them a penitentiary is a place where people are placed when they have committed a crime. Then they might asked, "WHY ARE THEY PLACED THERE?" We would tell them they are placed there for the purpose of causing them to reflect on what they have done, and society would hope they would come to the place they might deeply regret what they have done, and determine not to do it again.

The word *"penitentiary"* has to do with *"penance"* which has to do with **CONTRITION AND CONFESSION OF SINS.**

There are seven **PENITENTIAL** psalms. A **PENITENTIAL** PSALM is a psalm that describes the deep sorrow of the psalmist after he had sinned. The seven **penitential** psalms are psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143.

David had committed two evil acts.

- He had committed adultery with Bathsheba
- He had her husband Uriah killed

David had sinned and he deeply regretted what he had done.

When God's children do wrong, they should have deep remorse for what they have done!

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Illus: They are not like Tim McVeigh, who bombed the federal building in Oklahoma, taking the lives of 168 people and having no remorse whatsoever!

Once a true child of God has their eyes opened up to what they have done, they have deep remorse. But they also have something else, they have GOD'S DISCIPLINE! God knows how to discipline His own!

Illus: When we had old fashioned parents who practiced what this Bible teaches about discipline, and did not spare the rod, we did not have the problems we are having today in our society or schools.

God has promised to chastise His own. In Hebrews 12:8, we find that if we are without God's chastisement, then we not really His sons!

God has promised to take care of His own, and He knows exactly how to deal with us in such a way that when He is finished, we will conclude the evil deed is not worth the cost!

A lot of folks these days profess to be saved. **What a person professes to be does not mean a thing - what he is, is what counts!**

e.g. My grandchildren pretending to be Superman or Batman.

We can claim to be anything or anyone we want to be, but God knows who we are. God has promised to chastise His own, and we can mark it down...HE DOES!

Illus: Notice the life of David. For only a short time, perhaps thirty minutes or an hour of sinful pleasure, David suffered the rest of his life. The cost of sin is always larger than we expect.

We can do something silly and end up paying for it over and over again.

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What a price David paid for MOMENTARY PLEASURE! Someone said,
"Sin always starts out as fun, but it certainly does not end that way!"

I. NOTICE DAVID'S PLEA! (Vs 1)

"O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger..." He was not telling the Lord that he did NOT DESERVE to be rebuked. He was simply pleading with the Lord not to rebuke him in His anger.

He is saying, *"Lord, I deserve to be punished, but don't do it in your anger."*

David gave a reason for asking God not to chastise him in His anger. Look at **verse 2**, he said, *"Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak..."*

He wanted to remind God of something He already knew, that we are WEAK, and sometimes we get ourselves into trouble because of that.

BUT NOTICE HOW HE APPROACHED GOD. This is the RIGHT APPROACH TO GOD.

- (1) WE SHOULD NEVER COME TO GOD TELLING HIM THAT OUR SINS ARE NOT SO BAD!
They are so bad that God's Son had to die on a cruel cross so that we might be saved!
- (2) WE SHOULD NEVER COME TO GOD TELLING HIM THAT WE ARE NOT TO BLAME!
We are to blame! *James 1:14* says, *"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."*

We become slaves to our own appetites and follow them!

- (3) WE SHOULD NEVER COME TO GOD TELLING HIM HOW GOOD WE ARE!

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He is with us twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year.

- He knows our every thought, motive, and deed!
- He knows exactly what kind of person we really are!

The best way to approach God is with the plea, "GOD BE MERCIFUL." David knew HE WAS GUILTY and he only asked God for mercy!

Look at the last part of verse 2 and verse 3, *"...for my bones are vexed. My soul is also sore vexed..."*

He had gotten himself into a mess, and now PAY DAY had arrived and he was scared to death. He was trembling down to his bones.

Hebrews 10: 31 says, *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

He said, *"...my bones are vexed..."* He reached right into the very foundation of his body—His bones!

Notice, David said the fear he had about the terrible sin he had committed, caused him to feel it not only in his BONES, but also in his SOUL!

- They say when you are having a good time, time goes by fast.
- We all have experienced that, but the flip side to that coin is that when things are going badly, we wonder if we will be able to endure. David cried, *"...O Lord, how long."*

David was saying, *"Lord, I know what I did was a terrible thing, and I lay in bed at night and cannot sleep. HOW MUCH LONGER AM I GOING TO BE PUNISHED?"*

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So, we *NOTICE DAVID'S PLEA...*

II. NOTICE DAVID'S PRAYER!

There are many good books that teach Christians about prayer, but most of them DO NOT teach people to be HONEST WITH GOD IN PRAYER. When we are not honest with God, the only kind of prayer we can pray is an INEFFECTIVE PRAYER!

Because, prayer must begin with us spiritually stripping ourselves before God. God sees us exactly that way.

- The Bible teaches we are to confess our FAULTS one to another.
- But the Bible teaches we are to confess our SINS to God!

We have some Christians today who are living a life of misery, and it is all because they have never come clean with God. They are always desperately seeking someone that they can place the blame on.

Illus: Song "It's me, it's me O Lord standing in the need of prayer."

God knows everything about us, so we may as well begin with that in mind. One of the reasons for prayer is to get us to the place where we are willing to talk to God about our sins.

David did not get to that place immediately.

Illus: The prophet Nathan went to David and told him the story of an evil man, and King David recognized the sin of the evil man must be punished. He wanted to know who this man was. Then Nathan revealed, "Thou art the man!" From that time on, David saw himself the way God saw him, and he did not like what he saw.

In **verses 4-7**, David tells us two things about himself.

A. He Says What He Wanted From God!

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One of the other penitential Psalms he makes it clear. *Psalm 51:12, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."*

David had lost the JOY OF HIS SALVATION, and no one had to tell him— he knew it!

Before you can have something RESTORED, you must first have possessed it. David once had the joy of salvation, but he had let sin rob him of his joy, and he was miserable.

You can preach to some that they do not have the joy of God's salvation and they have no idea what you are talking about. BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T LOST IT, THEY NEVER POSSESSED IT!

Illus: Talking to some people about the joy of the Lord, would be like talking to a blind man about sight, when he has never seen a day of his life.

David wanted God to restore the joy of his salvation that he once had. He wanted God to do this for two reasons:

1. He Had A Selfish Motive!

He prayed to God to deliver his soul from the misery he was suffering from because he needed relief!

2. He Had A Pure Motive!

Sin had entered his life, and sin had robbed him of the joy of his salvation, and he says in the last part of *verse 4, "...oh save me for thy mercies' sake."*

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If God dealt with us only with JUSTICE, there would be no one around to praise Him for being the great God that He is! Look at *verse 5*, "*For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?*"

David recognized God as a Holy and Just God, but also as a Loving and Kind God. He did not plead with God to deal with him in JUSTICE, but in His LOVING KINDNESS.

In his prayer, David told God WHAT HE WANTED. He wanted that sweet relationship he once had with the Lord back again.

David tells us WHAT HE WANTED FROM GOD and also -

B. He Says How He Feels.

It does not hurt to tell God how we feel. In verses 6-7 he said, "*I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim: I water my couch with my tears. Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of mine enemies.*"

In these verses he describes himself before God. We see three things:

1. **"I am weary with my groaning..." (Vs 6)**
David was saying that he had cried in agony so much, that he about could not cry any more.
2. **"...all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears." (Vs 6)**
This figure of speech is called a hyperbole. It is an over-exaggeration used to emphasize something.

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Illus: Suppose I say someone, "*is as strong as an ox.*" Does that mean they are actually as strong as an ox? No. That is an over-exaggeration to emphasize the strength of that person!

Did David "swim" in his bed because of all the tears he shed? No. He is emphasizing how much he cried concerning the sins he had committed.

3. **"Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies." (Vs 7)**
When a person hurts within and he weeps, it is seen in his countenance. His eyes will be red and perhaps puffy from the shedding of tears.

No one can read this psalm and be convinced that David did not deeply regret he had sinned. David CONFESSED HIS SINS TO GOD! He REPENTED OF HIS SINS!

As we see this man of God under the sting of God's chastisement, we know if he could go back and do it all over again, he would not have had anything to do with Bathsheba.

We see HIS PLEA and HIS PRAYER. Also, look at...

III. NOTICE HIS PLEASURE!

David said, in *Psalm 30:5b*, "*Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*"

David:

- PLEADED WITH GOD not to rebuke him in His anger
- PRAYED TO GOD and told Him WHAT HE WANTED and HOW HE FELT

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Now that God has heard David's PLEA and PRAYER.

Look at verses 8-10!

When King David made this tremendous mistake spiritually, it was a political mistake as well.

Illus: When a man is in the position he was in as King of Israel, there are always those waiting in the shadows for such a mistake to be made. When it is made, they make the most out of it and get all the mileage they can.

David let his enemies know they might as well DEPART, because God had heard his prayer.

Conclusion

Illus: The company that produced "Rolaids" for people with stomach problems, has a television commercial in which they show a person with pure misery all over their face. Then that person takes a Rolaids tablet, and suddenly a smile appears on their face. Then that person says, "How do you spell "relief"? And the answer is, "R-O-L-A-I-D-S"

The way we Christians find relief from the misery of sin is through CONFESSION and REPENTANCE.

Once we get things right with the Lord, then we are in a position for our prayers to be heard and answered.

1 John 1:9 says to Christians, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The Lord says in *James 5:16*, "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."