

LET GOD ARISE!

*Revival
Prayer Guide #3
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



Confess Our Sin before God: Revival under Moses Exodus 32-33

What strange perplexities arise,
What anxious fears and jealousies,
What crowds in doubtful light appear,
How few, alas, approved and clear!

And what am I? -- My soul awake,
And an impartial survey take;
Does no dark sign, no ground of fear,
In practice or in heart appear?

What image does my spirit bear?
Is Jesus formed, and living there?
Say, do His lineaments divine
In thought, and word, and action shine?

Searcher of hearts, O! search me still;
The secrets of my soul reveal;
My fears remove; let me appear
To God and my own conscience clear.

May I, consistent with Thy word,
Approach Thy table, O my Lord?
May I among Thy saints appear?
Shall I a welcome guest be there?

Have I the wedding garment on?
Or do I naked, stand alone?
O! quicken, clothe and feed my soul;
Forgive my sins, and make me whole.

— Author unknown



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Lev. 26.40-42 - But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, [41] so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, [42] then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

Ps. 38.15-18 - But for you, O Lord, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer. [16] For I said, “Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!” [17] For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever before me. [18] I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.

2 Chron. 6.37-38 - Yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,’ [38] if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their captivity to which they were carried captive, and pray toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name.

Dan. 9.4-11 - I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, [5] we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. [6] We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. [7] To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. [8] To us, O Lord,



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belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. [9] To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him [10] and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. [11] All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him.”

1 John 1.5-10 - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. [6] If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. [7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. [8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Ps. 51.10 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Luke 15.18-24 - I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. [19] I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.” [20] And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. [21] And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” [22] But the father said to his servants, “Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. [23] And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. [24] For this my son



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was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

Deut. 30.1-3 - And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, [2] and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, [3] then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.

Ps. 32.1-7 - Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. [2] Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. [3] For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. [4] For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* [5] I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah* [6] Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. [7] You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selah*

2 Cor. 7.10-11 - For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. [11] For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.



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Ps. 51.1-7 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! [3] For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. [4] Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. [5] Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. [6] Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. [7] Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Prov. 28.13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

James 5.16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Exod. 32.7-14 - And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. [8] They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” [9] And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. [10] Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.” [11] But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? [12] Why should the Egyptians say, ‘With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your burning anger



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and relent from this disaster against your people. [13] Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.’” [14] And the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people. ■

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Psalm 51. Author Unknown.

Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me!

Cast me not away
From Thy presence, O Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me,
Restore unto me,
The joy of Thy salvation,
And renew a right spirit within me.

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Revival in the community of God is simple yet radical. It is simple because those who are open and humble before God, who readily admit their own sinfulness and guilt before him, can receive his forgiveness and restoration through faith in his Son. It is radical because the Father does not forgive either excuses or alibis. He refuses to act on externals, but desires truth in the innermost being of our hearts. He is willing to forgive the admission of sin, but he will neither tolerate nor allow for anything less than the full and



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naked acknowledgment of our sinful acts. Sin may involve harming ourselves and others, but ultimately, all sin is perpetrated against the Lord.

Ps. 51.3-4 - For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. [4] Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

God records in Scripture numerous times when his people, caught in the act of their own rebellion and guilt, faced the choice either to repent from their wickedness and seek the forgiveness of God, or simply continue in the direction of their pride and suffer the consequences. If revival among the people of God means anything, it means that the will of God is restored to its rightful place in the hearts of God's people, and through their actions in their relationships and conduct. Revival, true revival, is nothing less than a fresh manifestation of the Kingdom of God in the midst of God's people, resulting in a new love for the Lord, a heart for the truth, a desire to obey his command, and a passion to bring him glory. Revival that does not result in holiness is little more than a spiritual flash in the pan, a kind of pseudo-emotional response that remains only skin deep and ineffective.

The setting of Moses and the children of Israel in Exodus 32 and 33 reveal the power of confession in both the judgment and mercy of God. Because of Moses' delay in coming down from the mountain, the people demanded that Aaron make them gods that would go before them. Apparently, without any hesitation, Aaron submits to the will of the people, gathering up gold from their golden earrings, fashioning the gold with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Incredibly, Aaron exclaims that this image he had fashioned was their god, the one that brought them out of the land of Egypt! Aaron built an altar before it, proclaimed a feast to the Lord, and the people arose early the next morning, offering burnt offerings and brought peace offerings, and celebrated with feast, drinking, and play.



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Against this backdrop, God tells Moses of their corruption and quick “turning aside” from his commandments. The Lord saw their stiff-necked hearts and idolatrous passions, and said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. [10] Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you” (Exod. 32.9b-10). In one of the moments of high drama in Scripture, Moses implores the Lord for Israel, pleading with God to save the people of his deliverance. He pleads his case for their forgiveness, arguing that the Egyptians will say that he brought them out of their land only to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth. Moses intercedes to the Lord on their behalf, asking that he turn from his burning anger and relent from this disaster against his people. In a striking claim, Moses asks the Lord to “Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.’” (Exod. 32.13). And, in one of the most powerful displays of the grace and lovingkindness of the Lord, he hears Moses’ plea and relents from the terrible judgment he had spoken of bringing on his people. In response to one man’s pleas for mercy, God hears and saves a nation from destruction.

Above all things, this display of the power of prayer to persuade God, to move him to mercy, to cause him (incredibly!) to relent from the disaster that he would bring on his people ought to encourage us in our petitions for the city. In the same way that Israel deserved God’s just and immediate judgment, so we today deserve his righteous retribution. We have sinned against him. We have failed to keep his commandments. We have rejected his laws. We have turned our backs on his righteous judgment and brought shame to his Son because of our lack of passion, obedience, and hunger. The claim of Isaiah rings true over the centuries in our own case: “All we like



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sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53.6, NKJV).

It seems transparent enough to suggest that no lasting fruit will come to the cities of America and the world without the gracious presence of God working in the midst of his people. And, correspondingly, no effective mission and ministry can be undertaken, no righteous proclamation of the truth, and no display of God’s power can be seen if we fail to receive his cleansing and mercy for our sin. Holiness is not an option in urban mission; God forgives sin, not excuses, not alibis, not protests, not blameshifting. If we will but confess our sins before him, admit our guilt and acknowledge our “turning aside” from his will, he will surely and wholly forgive us and grant us the power to accomplish his will. The blood of Jesus is sufficient for us; we need only affirm and apply our need for it.

Revival’s spark begins with the heart of God’s people readily willing and open to come before him humbly, to receive from him through Christ what he alone can provide—cleansing from sin, forgiveness, and full restoration into his will. The intercession of Moses, Daniel, Elijah, and others proves that God’s heart can be turned from judgment to grace. Let’s join in concentrated intercession, first for ourselves, confessing our own unbelief, lack of love, pettiness, and worldliness. Let us bow before God seeking his cleansing, and then join our prayers for our brothers and sisters everywhere. Let us seek the mercies of God and ask for his cleansing and empowerment. ■



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Example of Confession before God on Behalf of Oneself and One's People: Daniel

Dan. 9.3-5 - Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. [4] I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, [5] we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules."

Biblical Principle of the Month

Revival flows from the cleansing and power that occur as a result of the repentance, brokenness, and contrition arising from the confession of our sins. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is a holy God whose being and will are pure and beautiful. The vessels he employs and works through must be prepared, honed, cleansed, and washed; only those whose lives have experienced the cleansing power of the Blood of Christ can truly be in a position to be used of him for his high and holy purposes. Let us bow before him in humble contrition and receive the cleansing that he alone can provide through faith in Jesus Christ.

Only when the people of God, in deep repentance, humility, and contrition, confess their sins before God can they receive the cleansing and anointing necessary to become vessels of God's Word and his Spirit.

Ps. 51.10-12 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. [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.

Prov. 28.13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.



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Jer. 3.13 - Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the Lord your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the Lord.

1 John 1.8-10 - If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.



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