

Psalm 51.

How do we respond to failure?

This Week's Practice:

Prayer of Returning

Throughout Scripture, repentance is not merely feeling sorry for our mistakes. It is the act of turning back toward God and allowing Him to renew what has been broken.

This week, spend a few moments each day practicing a Prayer of Returning with Psalm 51.

How to practice the Prayer of Returning:

Reflect

Begin your prayer by asking an honest question:

Where have I drifted from the Lord's will?

Take a few moments to reflect on the different areas of your life: your relationship with God, your relationships with others, your thoughts, priorities, actions, habits, and daily routines. Where do you sense distance from God's desire for your life? Where have guilt, regret, or shame taken root?

As you reflect, resist the urge to justify or condemn yourself. Instead, bring these things honestly before the Lord, trusting in His mercy and His desire to restore what has been broken.

Read

Read Psalm 51 paying attention to God's mercy and His desire to renew and restore in the midst of David's honesty.

Return

Offer a simple prayer: *"Lord, have mercy on me. Create in me a clean heart. Renew a steadfast spirit within me."* You can add as much as you would like to this simple prayer, but make sure you pray slowly.

Receive

Spend time receiving God's grace. Remind yourself of these important truths: **God's mercy is greater than your failure. God's desire is restoration. Failure is not the end of God's work in your life.**

Allow yourself to rest in God's forgiveness and love.

Psalm 51

How do we respond to failure?

- Psalm 51 is about living into a life of _____.
- **The Rhythm of Psalm 51:**
 - Failure → _____ → _____ → _____ → _____.
- **The Destination of Psalm 51:**
 - The restoration that comes out of God's _____ for _____
_____.
- David's response failure is to ask God to do what only God can. To _____
_____.
- **One Thing: God's _____ is greater than our _____.**

The Testimony of Joey Turek

- What characteristics of God does Joey reference in his testimony?
- Where do you notice the presence of God in Joey's story?
- What response does Joey's story invite or encourage in you?