

# The Happiness of Sins Forgiven

Psalm 32

“If you really want to know the intricacies of a subject the best thing is to find an expert, someone who has had wide experience of it. Ask him! David is such a help to us in this prevalent and personal matter of sin because he, himself, was such a great sinner. For although David was one of the greatest saints of Scripture, called a man after God’s own heart, and one of the great prophets of Scripture, he predicted the resurrection of Christ, and one of the great kings of Scripture, he was also one of the greatest sinners. He sinned with a high-handed rebellion and with a depth of cunning and hypocrisy which would astonish us did we not know the wickedness of our own heart” (John Phillips, page 238).

David was a great sinner, but he also had a great Savior who forgave him all his sins. David tells his story in two Psalms: Psalm 52 and Psalm 32.

In Psalm 32, David keeps two promises he made to God in his confession to God in Psalm 51:

**1. David promised God that he would praise Him for His forgiveness:** “Deliver me from my bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness” (Psalm 51:14). David kept this promise in Psalm 32:1-5 when he rejoiced, “Blessed or happy is the person whose transgression is forgiven.”

**2. David also promised God that he would teach others from his experience of forgiveness:** “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways and sinners shall be converted unto thee” (Psalm 51:12-13). David kept this promise in Psalm 32:6-11.

## What are the truths David teaches us out of his experiences of sin and forgiveness?

**1. God Answers Prayers For Forgiveness:** “For this (for this forgiveness that I just experienced) shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found” (verse 6a).

**A. Who is the godly?** All believers are godly in their standing before God. David is not just saying only believers who are without sin can pray for forgiveness. Paul quoted this Psalm to prove his doctrine of imputation and justification by faith in Romans 4:1-8.

**B. When can the godly pray?** “In a time when you (God) may be found.” That implies a time when God cannot be found. There are times when God will not answer our prayers according to Proverbs 1:22-29. When someone prays simply using God like a spare tire, God doesn’t answer. This has also been called foxhole praying. At least twice when God was pouring out His plagues

on Egypt, Pharaoh confessed, “I have sinned” so God would end the plague. But just as soon as the plague was over, Pharaoh refused to let God’s people go.

But the New Testament promise is this: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins” (1 John 1:9).

**2. God Protects the Forgiven Believer:** “Surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto thee” (verse 6b-7).

**A. God protects believers from the flood of consequences after his sin by sustaining him.**

Nathan pronounced the consequences in 2 Samuel 12: “Wherefore have you despised the commandment of the Lord to do evil in his sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword...the sword shall never depart from your house.” The illegitimate baby died, Ammon violated his sister, Absalom murdered Ammon, and then Absalom rebelled against his father and was murdered. As hard as the consequences of sin are, God sustains the forgiven believer.

**B. God protects believers from the flood of judgment (Psalm 29:10-11).** Just as God protected Noah and his family from the flood on judgment in Genesis 6, God will protect believers in the future judgment on unbelievers (Romans 8:1).

**C. God protects believers from all kinds of floods (Psalm 18:1-4).** God is our hiding place in Psalm 32:7. Before David was hiding from God in his sin. Now that he has confessed his sin, David is hiding in God for protection in the storms of life.

In the tsunami in Japan that erupted with the 8.9 earthquake off its shores, the 30 foot waves swept away all house except rock houses. It reminded me of Jesus sermon in Matthew 7:24: “Whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”

**D. God not only protects but He gives us a song in our storm.** David said he was surrounded with songs of deliverance. Everywhere David looked, he saw God at work.

**3. God Guides the Forgiven Believer:** (verses 8-10a)

**A. God guides with His Word.** God is speaking in verse eight: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you shall go.” God wants to teach us His Word so we don’t return to our sin and misery. This does not contradict what David promised God in Psalm 52, “I will teach transgressors your ways.” God uses human teachers to teach His people. Pastor/teachers, S.S. teachers, Women’s Bible Study, Radio, TV, podcasts.

**B. God guides with His presence:** “I will guide you with mine eye.” When Peter was in the process of denying the Lord, Luke 22:61 records: “And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.

And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, you shall deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.” That was a look of conviction.

***C. God guides and we must respond properly or God chastens.***

1. David warns from his bitter experience in verse 9: “Be not as the horse or as the mule whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle.” For nine months David was like a unbroken horse who would not obey his rider. David forced God to yank on the bit and bridle which David describes in 32:3-4.

1. God yanked and David suffered physically
2. God yanked and David suffered mentally
3. God yanked and David suffered spiritually

2. Sometimes even the bit doesn’t work. Listen to David’s son in Proverbs 26:3: “A whip for the horse, a bridle for the mule and a rod for the fool’s back.”

I worked as a teen for Ralph Hester who trained registered Quarter horses. Cherokee could be stubborn. When Cherokee would not lower his head for show purposes, Ralph tied him between two trees and he and another man whipped him until he no longer flinched. Cherokee lowered his head and racked up the trophies.

We can listen to His Word, or be convicted by His presence or be disciplined by circumstances which are like bits and bridles or sometimes even worse like a whip. The choice is ours.

God makes that choice clear in verse 10:

1. Choose to be surrounded by sorrows or
2. Choose to be surrounded by God’s mercy

David begins his Psalm praising the Lord “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven.....” now David instructs us, all believers, to be glad for God’s forgiveness, rejoice for God’s protection from the storms of life, and shout for joy for God’s instruction not to go back.