

Standing in His Presence

Introduction:

Text: Psalm 51:11-13

Today, we turn our hearts and minds to the words of David in Psalm 51:11-13. David lays bare his agonizing encounter with sin and fervently implores God for redemption. Our lesson, titled "**Standing in His Presence**," (*intricately*) explores David's desperate plea to bask in the unwavering embrace of the Almighty.

1) Cast me not from your presence:

David begins by imploring God not to cast him away from His presence. For David, being taken from the presence of God was the worst fate imaginable. There are good things that come from His presence (Ps 16:11; 23:4; Exodus 33:14). In the aftermath of his sins, he keenly understood that separation from God was a consequence more severe than any earthly punishment. David, a man after God's heart, knew that communion with God was the very essence of life. Adam and Eve died the moment God drove them out of his presence (Gen 3:22,23). But David found solace, guidance, and unshakeable joy in God's presence (Ps 16:11). To be cast away would mean losing the exact source of his existence (Psalm 139:7, John 6:68).

As we reflect on David's plea, let us examine our lives. How often do we take the privilege of standing in God's presence for granted? Do we recognize the gravity of the separation that sin brings? (Isa. 59:1,2). David's cry reminds us to cherish our

relationship with the Almighty and to seek forgiveness earnestly when we falter.

2) Restore the joy of your salvation:

In repentance, David acknowledges the loss of the joy God's salvation once brought into his life. Here we see that joy is linked to salvation. Any joy that you find out of Christ will not last (Phil 4:4, Matt 5:12). Sin had cast a dark shadow over the radiant light of God's deliverance in David's life. It drained him to the core, applying its suppressing guilt weight on his soul. However, God's salvific work paved the way for a relief in him. So, he prays that God rejoices his heart again, freeing him from grip of hell and death. The Parable of the Prodigal Son affirms that souls exuberate with joy on the basis of salvation. Jesus explained that when the lost son returned home, his dad ordered the party to begin, celebrating, rejoicing for the return of his son (Lukas 15:11-23).

According to Luke's account in Acts, the Ethiopian Eunuch rejoiced after accepting Christ in baptism. (Acts 8:38-40). So, joy is a natural outflow of being saved in Christ. However, David had descended into the abyss of iniquity and lost the inner joy that came from knowing God's grace and mercy. Sin replaced his joy with the heaviness of guilt and remorse.

In our spiritual life, we may encounter moments when the burdens of life or the weight of our sins dampen the joy of salvation. David's plea teaches us the importance of seeking restoration in God's presence. Through genuine repentance, we can reclaim our peace of mind and contentment of heart that

salvation brings. Let us never forget the transformative power of God's grace to lift the burdens that weigh us down.

3) Uphold me with your free spirit:

David concludes his plea by acknowledging his need for God's support to navigate the challenging effects of his sins. "Uphold me with your free spirit," he implores. In recognizing the limitations of his strength, David appeals to the sustaining power of God's Spirit. The "free spirit" refers to God's divine support for his children.

Likewise, as we confront the challenges and consequences of our sins, let us seek the empowering presence of God's Spirit. Through this divine support, we can find the strength to stand firm in adversity. David's plea echoes through the ages, reminding us that God's Spirit is our most significant source of strength and guidance in weakness.

In conclusion, let us learn from David's heartfelt petition. May we never take for granted the privilege of standing in God's presence. May we seek the restoration of the joy of our salvation when sin threatens to overshadow it. And may we continually rely on the free spirit of God to uphold us in times of trial. As we study his word, let us renew our commitment to standing in God's presence, seeking His forgiveness, and experiencing the life-changing power of His love in our lives.