

The Agony of Guilt

2 Samuel 11

SIN Lawlessness or transgression of God's will, either by omitting to do what God's law requires or by doing what it forbids. The transgression can occur in thought, word, or deed. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary,)

SIN (Heb. hatta'a; Grk. hamartia, a falling away from or missing the right path). (New Unger's Bible Dictionary.)

We would rather call sin anything except what it is. **"Sin"** But, if we fail to call sin what God calls it and if we rationalize it or make excuses for it- we lose the joy of our salvation. Confession, repentance, cleansing and Godly restoration is the only way to remove the guilt and shame that sin brings into our lives.

1. King David battled two giants in his lifetime. (1) **Goliath**.. The well-known giant that David as a shepherd boy defeated in just a matter of minutes. (2) **Guilt**.. Which is the lesser-known giant that took him many months to defeat and overcome.
2. 2 Samuel 11 records David's tragic sin and his ultimate fall. Instead of leading his army into battle as he had always done in the past, David, for whatever reason chose to stay behind in Jerusalem.
3. Here and now David would meet the giant named **"Guilt."** From the rooftop of his palace and with lust of the eyes King David watched the beautiful Bathsheba (wife of Uriah) bathing on a nearby rooftop. He had her brought to him. David gratified his lust of the flesh by committing adultery with Bathsheba. When the act was finished he sent her back home later being informed that a child had been conceived.
4. David knew he had to cover his sin. He knew his reputation as being a godly king was at risk so he sent for Bathsheba's husband who was away fighting in David's army. He figured Uriah would come home and sleep with his wife and then it would appear that her husband and not David conceived the child.
5. David did not plan on Uriah's loyalty and honor to both himself and God. Uriah refused the comfort of Bathsheba's arms while his fellow soldiers were still in battle. In loyalty to his master he spent nights away from her with all his master's servants camped in tents at the entrance to the palace and in open fields.

2 Sam 11:14-17 And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. 16And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. 17And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

1. Instead of confessing his sin, David decided to have Uriah murdered and then take Bathsheba as his own.
2. Uriah's actions were based on his commitment to God and his comrades who were fighting the Lord's battle. He paid for his dedication with his life. **Thus: David was guilty of adultery and murder.**
3. When God first called David to be king; David was a man after God's own heart. *1 Sam 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart.*
4. Now David has caused God deep grief and ceased to be a man after God's own heart. He disobeyed God and His Word by committing the sins of adultery and murder.

2 Sam 11:27And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

1. David's sins and subsequent cover-up were an exceptional evil in God's sight.
2. He was guilty of breaking the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 10th commandments and his sins were made greater because he was an appointed shepherd over God's people.
3. Nine months later Bathsheba gave birth to a son and on the seventh day he died because of David's disobedience and his sin against God.
4. Now for David defeating the **"Giant of Guilt"** would become a far greater challenge than defeating Goliath, the giant of the Philistines.
5. As with David it can be terrifying for us to open our guilt to the light, but remember that this is the only road to reconciliation and peace with self, others and God.

Ps 32:3-4 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the daylong. 4For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

1. Psalm 32 describes in part the anguish of body and soul that David went through while concealing his sin.
 - a. When David hid his sin and did not acknowledge it to God, he lost what was most worthwhile in life. His health, peace of mind, happiness, his fellowship, and favor with God. In its place he experienced guilt and inner torment as God's hand was heavy upon him in punishment.
 - b. His heart became silent and his guilt began to take on new physiological dimension.
 - c. He was in agony as his bones grew old through his groaning all the daylong
 - d. His vitality was turned into the drought of summer and his freshness of life was gone, replaced with bitterness, sorrow and anguish.
 - e. His conscience was filled with disgust for breaking his communion with God. ***His life was a mess!***
 - f. We may fool our self into believing that we can just simply bury our wrong doings and just go on without having to admit them. But, just as springtime brings forth buds on a tree they will grow and bear fruit so that eventually we will have to deal with a crop of consequences.
 - g. The law of sowing and reaping: ***"We reap what we sow!"***
 - h. Many in recovery are carrying around the heavy burden of past or even present guilt and shame and living this lie is ***"Miserable."*** Why are you carrying this weight and putting yourself through such anguish when God already knows your secret sins and relief is available?
 - i. How do we rid our self of the anguish, brokenness and shame of the ***"giant of guilt"?***
 - A. Quit rationalizing our actions.
 - B. Quit blaming others because the choices have always been ours.
 - C. Quit making excuses for what we have done. ***"Get Honest." "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32"***
 - D. Sin is like a stain on a tabletop. You can hide it by putting a plate over it but the stain is still there. It comes off only by removing what's hiding it and dealing with the stain itself and that is what David did.

Ps 51:7-12 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

1. David had lustfully pursued Bathsheba and had Uriah killed with no thought of having to face God and the consequences of his actions. *Even despite David's humble confession, he still had to face them.*
2. David's disregard for God's principals brought painful consequences not only upon himself, but also upon his family and his kingdom. *The consequences of our mistakes often remain long after they have been forgiven for both our families and us.*
3. ***"I have sinned against you Lord,"*** was the right response to David's wrongdoings. It was David's confession of acknowledgement and accountability before God.
4. Upon confession David's heart was open before God and he was willing to accept God's correction in his life.
5. Confession is not only ridding our self of the garbage of our past but it is the relief and freedom of finally being able to discard its pain and agony into God's forgiving hands.
6. After each failure in our life we must be willing to admit our sin, be willing to accept God's truth, accept the consequences and receive His forgiveness. And as with King David in the midst of our agony and failures we must remain one whose primary desire is to know and obey God.
7. Because of David's disobedience and sin he had to go through many difficult years and much of that time he was a fugitive without a home or a country running for his life. But, through this all God was always there to supply him with the help he needed to survive daily. *King David was restored back to the Father.*

David made the most important step toward solving all his pain and agony caused by disobedience.

He humbly sought God, confessed his sins and came to the understanding that true deliverance and happiness comes as we acknowledge God as our helper and the source of our strength.