Introduction:

Sometimes …

- . . . smart people do dumb things
- . . . wise people do foolish things
- . . . godly people do sinful things

What all humans have in common is failure.

But with God . . .

. . . FAILURE IS NEVER FINAL!

- A Story to Ponder

- A Question to Answer

Resource: *The Seven Keys to Spiritual Renewal* by Stephen Arterburn
A Song of Confession:

Psalm 51

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. 14 Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.
7 Steps to Spiritual Recovery:

1. __________ clean with God!  
   2 Samuel 12:13

2. __________ God for forgiveness.  
   Psalm 51:1-2

3. __________ Responsibility for your sin.  
   Psalm 51:3-5

4. __________ God’s forgiveness and cleansing.  
   Psalm 51:6-9

5. __________ a “fresh” work of grace!  
   Psalm 51:10-12

6. __________ to use past failures for ministry.  
   Psalm 51:13-17

7. __________ for “limited fall-out” from your folly.