

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

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

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴Against 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. ⁵Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. ⁷Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

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

¹⁸In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹Then 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.