

**December 10, 2018**



Psalm 51:10-12 (Voice)

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
restore within me a sense of being brand new.

Do not throw me far away from Your presence,  
and do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me.

Give back to me the *deep* delight of being saved by You;  
let Your willing Spirit sustain me.

“When I was in fifth grade, my mother and I lived in an old three-story house near the campus of Missouri State University. A gentleman from our church had purchased the house, rented out rooms to college girls and installed my mother as the resident manager/surrogate mother. One of my favorite places to play was in an empty third-floor room with a wood floor. I loved to take off my shoes and skate around on the slick planks—until the day I discovered old wooden floors had splinters.

When I say splinter, I don't mean a little sliver of wood so small it requires a magnifying glass and a pair of tweezers to remove. This one was two inches long, an eighth of an inch wide, and it was deep. I tried pulling it out, but it hurt so much I couldn't. I hobbled down two flights of stairs trying to avoid my mother, but she saw me. Despite my desperate pleas for her not to touch it, she tried to pull that splinter out. The visible part broke off, but it still didn't budge. So off to the emergency room we went.

I spent the entire ride trying to convince my mother that I could function just fine with that splinter in my foot. I could just walk on my tiptoes. No one would notice! Who needs to wear shoes anyway? She wasn't buying it. When I saw the size of the needle the doctor was going to use to numb my foot, my arguments shifted into high gear. Nothing that hurt that much could possibly make anything better.

I imagine that's the way David felt when the prophet Nathan confronted him about seizing Bathsheba for an adulterous affair and then arranging for her husband's death to hide his sin. 2 Samuel 12 recounts the story and the punishment Nathan decreed would follow: the death of the son conceived in his affair. When that son became ill, David hit his knees. He pleaded with God for the life of his son. He lay on the ground in sackcloth. He wouldn't eat. The officials of his household came to lift him from the ground, but he wouldn't budge. His lament was so great, that when the child died, they were afraid to tell David, fearing he might do something desperate.

Out of that lament, he wrote the song we know as Psalm 51, but if we skip to the verses above, we've missed half the story. The song begins with a cry for mercy, a confession and an acknowledgement that the punishment received was just. David then goes on to plead again for forgiveness and restoration. Through his pain, his shame and his grief he came to understand that only God can create a pure heart, only God can renew a spirit and make it steadfast. David goes on to pledge once again his loyalty to the Lord. Then the heartbroken father utters these haunting words in verses 16-17. "You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."

How can something that hurts so much make anything better? Only when we allow God to break our pride. Only when we do the hard work of acknowledging our sin and bringing all the pieces of our broken hearts and lives to the only One who can make us clean. When the hiding stops, the healing begins. As God cleanses our heart and our spirit is renewed, we will know the pain of repentance is more than worth the joy of God's salvation."

*By Rev. Sarah Fotopulos, Associate Pastor*  
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Andrea Janz writes not about pride - but about having too low self-esteem:

"I prayed to God to help me see myself as God saw me. With the Creator's help I began an inner battle to overcome this unthankfulness within me. Of course, God didn't just take away all of these negative thoughts about myself. But when they came up then God gave me strength to fight them.

I clung to the verse in 1 Corinthians 6:20 (Voice): 'You have been purchased at a great price, so use your body to bring glory to God!' Each time I was tempted to low self-esteem, I said 'No. God bought me at a price. God saw something of worth in me.' Having low self-esteem caused inaction. It wasn't true, nor did it serve to glorify God.

When I live a life of victory I can be an instrument in God's hands (Romans 6:13 Voice - 'Don't offer your bodily members to sin's service as tools of wickedness; instead, offer your body to God as those who are alive from the dead, and devote the parts of your body to God as tools for justice *and goodness in this world.*'), and God can use me and mold me exactly."

**Whatever we use Lord, to block the blessings from You - either an ego with pride which pushes Your love and grace out - or an ego with too low self-esteem which doesn't allow Your love and grace in or to be accepted - grant us power to see Your salvation and how You continue to transform us into more perfect creatures - and let us feel brand new. Then our joy in You will be restored! Amen**



**Sara Riggs got a job with DRH  
Savannah Martin has a spot at OSU Med School  
Angel Tree gifts for kids  
Rebecca's auditions  
Woodburn's at Church**



- Monday (12/10)** 6:00 pm – Bible Study  
7:00 pm – Ladies Night
- Tues. (12/11)** 5:30 pm – Keno Group  
6:00 pm – Parsonage Open House
- Wednesday (12/12)**  
11:15 am – DHS Student Lunch  
5:30 pm – Faithweavers  
6:00 pm - Choir Practice
- Sunday (12/16)** Advent Week 3 – Love  
Noon – Potluck Fellowship Meal  
6:00 pm– Book Study



David and Jana will be having a come and go Christmas Open House on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Parsonage.

Duncan High School Student Lunch will be Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:15 am to 1 pm. Please help us get the word out to the Community.

Faithweavers Christmas Party is Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

The Fellowship Meal on December 16<sup>th</sup> will be Potluck. Saint Paul's will provide the Meat so please bring a side dish or Dessert.

We will have a Blue Christmas Service Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm.

There will be two Christmas Eve Services on December 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm. The 6 pm Service will be a family friendly Service.



40+ employees laid off at Halliburton

Kathy Allred – Surgery on Dec 27<sup>th</sup>

Pam McEarchern – Greg Tolle’s sister. Cancer has returned

Mary Jo Randolph

Family of George HW Bush

Karen Gibson – Cancer

Gary Gibson – Cancer

Marcia Haskins – struggling with multiple foot wounds.

RJ’s son in law not doing well

Family of Dru McReynolds

Prayers to point Jana’s students to Jesus

Julie Gilby

Courtney - The Allred’s 11 yr old grandchild with neurological issues

Sara Riggs – Divorce

Jan Smith – Cancer

Trish Lister

Brittany Lipscomb Epperson and Son Levi – Delivered Levi at 23 weeks

Jennifer Shahan – Heart Problems

Iva Johnson – Hospice

Christa Tannaka

Christy Thurston

Beth Horn

Brandon Downey

Addie McMurrin

Chuck Green and Family – Cancer

Karen Stanfill – Cancer

Rebecca’s cousin has eating disorder, liver failure and on transplant list

Kathy Bridges – Cancer

Joe Perry – Kidney cancer

Stacy Mettler – Breast Cancer

Margaret Averre – Throat cancer

Daniel Whittney – Colon cancer; now liver cancer

Tammy Noland – Cancer

Jennifer Allred – Spinal pain and fibromyalgia

Gloria McCoy – cancer

Melinda Douglas – Lung Cancer