

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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**SERMON TITLE**

**Renewed and Restored**

**SERIES**

**DATE**

1/12/2025

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

**Psalm 51:10-12**

**SYNOPSIS**

God can create a brand new you if you'll ask.

**HIGHLIGHTS**



## ☞ Renewed and Restored

### Psalms 51:10-12

**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.**

Last week we were in Ezekiel 37 with the valley of dry bones. God can take even the most desperate, dead situation and breathe new life into it. He is the Creator God who has the authority and ability to do whatever he pleases. Those dry bones represented the house of Israel, who thought that all hope was lost and that they had been cut off from God permanently. But, with God, there is no hopeless situation. It's the Spirit of the Lord that gives life, and, if God pours out his Spirit, even the dead can come alive again.

Today, we're in Psalm 51, which was penned by King David after the prophet, Nathan confronted him regarding his sin. David had used his authority as king to bring another man's wife into his bed. He committed adultery, knowing full well that it was a sin. Not only that, he arranged for her husband to be killed in order to cover up his sin.

☞ That's **the nature of sin – one sin leads to another and another, and it tends to get worse and worse.** At his core, David loved the Lord, but he let his sinful nature take control, which led him down a deep, dark path. This giant-killing, godly man was now an adulterous murderer. He knew he deserved God's wrath, but he asked the Lord to show mercy.

In verses 3 and 4 he acknowledges his sin and takes responsibility for it. This is a key ingredient in the process of renewal. We call it repentance.

### ☞ Acts 3:19

**Repent, then, and turn to God**, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord

☞ The Greek word for repent means to **think differently and change direction**. Sometimes we feel bad about our behavior, but biblical repentance is more than just feeling bad. Repentance is more than just regret. Regret is the first step which should lead to true repentance. **2 Corinthians 7:10** talks about this when it says, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret." And, even here in verse 17, David talks about a broken spirit, but he adds a contrite heart into the mix. The broken spirit expresses sorrow, but the contrite heart expresses humility and submission.

In **Revelation 3:1-3** God spoke to the church in Sardis which is very fitting here and it goes with our theme, Come Alive in 2025... "I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent"

If sin is the reason you are feeling dead inside, then the simple solution is to repent. Acknowledge your sin to God and ask for his mercy. That's what David did in this Psalm. Then, he began asking God for a miracle in verse 10.



## **10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,**

The word used for “create” here means something only God can do. There are other Hebrew words for creating, but none have the sense of this word - creating something from nothing. Only God can do that. As we envision Coming Alive in 2025, it’s not just trying to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps or pump ourselves up. It’s asking God to miraculously breathe new life into us, just as he did with those dry bones last week.

*David Guzik... David felt that it wasn't enough if God simply cleaned up the heart he had. He needed a new heart from God, a **clean heart**.*

Perhaps you’ve been struggling to maintain a pure heart. You’ve allowed an impure mixture of worldliness in. You haven’t been completely, exclusively devoted to God. You want to be, but you’re not quite there. Then this prayer is for you. You can’t manifest this in your own strength and efforts.

☞ **Ask God for a miracle in your heart.** He wants to do it.

### **and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Renew = repair, rebuild, restore. Maybe there was a time when you were completely focused on the Lord and living for him. Ask God to renew that within you. This takes me back to Revelation, but this time to chapter 2 and the church at Ephesus. God says, “remember the height from which you have ☞ fallen; repent and **do the things you did at first.**”

When you were feeling alive and vibrant in the Lord, what were you doing at that time? I’m guessing you were focused a lot on him; you were thanking him for saving you; you were diligently reading your bible and talking to God. Do those things again.

It’s a little like a married couple whose love has diminished over time. There was a time when your love for each other was on fire, but now it’s lukewarm. An important part of reigniting that fire is to do what you used to do. When you were falling in love, your thoughts and actions were very focused. You put in the effort to win the target of your affections. Well, get back to that! And, in your walk with the Lord, remember how it once was and get back to that! Then, keep at it.

David asks for a steadfast spirit. Steadfast = right, stable, secure, enduring, firmly anchored. Once God works in us, creating a new heart, we want to remain pure for the long haul. We don’t just want a fleeting moment with God. We want an ongoing encounter with the Lord. We want to continue firmly in the way of godliness.

## **11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

No doubt, David is remembering what happened to King Saul before him. He also sinned against the Lord, but didn’t really repent and it cost him his throne. More than that, it cost him his relationship with the Lord. David can’t stand the thought of that. He wants to be in the Lord’s presence.

The presence of the Lord has been a theme of my preaching for many years. I don’t want to just know God from a distance; I want to know him in an up-close and personal way. I don’t want to just believe in a distant God, I want to experience him. There’s nothing quite like being in the presence of God.



One day, we will pass into eternity and will experience his presence to the fullest. But even now, we can experience a taste of his presence.

When Solomon dedicated the temple, God's presence was so thick, it was like a cloud filling the temple, which disrupted the typical practices of the priests. When the two disciples on the way to Emmaus encountered the risen Christ, their hearts burned within them. I've seen hardened people break into tears in the presence of the Lord. I've seen others laugh for joy in the presence of the Lord. There's healing, peace and joy in his presence. I want that, and I want you to experience the presence of the Lord!

### **do not take Your Holy Spirit from me**

Here again, as last week, we need the Holy Spirit. This is God's gift to us. Now, under the New Covenant through Christ, the Holy Spirit constantly abides with us. However, we can have more or less of his influence in our lives, depending on our attitudes and actions.

**Ephesians 4:30** warns us to not grieve the Holy Spirit by gossiping and tearing others down. **1 Thessalonians 5:19** tells us not to put out the Spirit's fire by evil behavior or despising his work in us. I don't want to grieve or diminish the Holy Spirit in me or our church. I want us to **continually welcome the influence of the Holy Spirit** in our lives and in our gatherings.

### **12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation**

Some listening today have lost the joy of your salvation. That needs to be restored! If you really stop and think about the gift of salvation, it will inspire joy. You were destined to eternity apart from God with unending suffering. But now, you are on your way to heaven and will even be part of God's government. You have an inheritance from the King of kings and Lord of lords! Don't ever lose sight of that! **Reclaim your joy!**

**Nehemiah 8:10** says that the joy of the Lord is your strength. You need it! Stop and think about the eternity you now have through Christ and you'll begin to see that joy restored.

*Carman – This Thing Is Real*

*This thing is real; This thing is real; This automatic all-fanatic blessing I feel*

*You may not understand; Why we shout and raise our hands*

*It's only because this thing is real*

### **and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Even the willing attitude to follow the Lord comes from God. If you've been struggling to even **want** to repent and do the right thing, you can ask God for a willing spirit. Willing = voluntary; generous; noble. God can supernaturally work in your heart to make you willing to follow him.

### **Philippians 2:13**

it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

**It's this submissive, willing spirit that will sustain you for the long haul.** If you're only following the Lord out of obligation, or because somebody told you to, you'll eventually run out of steam. There needs to be joy and willingness – a "want to" attitude. You may start out serving the Lord because you



understand it's the right thing to do. But, if you allow him to work in your heart, serving him can become a joyful thing. And, when you do something you love to do, it's easy to keep on doing it.

I want you to follow the Lord wholeheartedly for the long haul. You can't do that on your own strength and merit. You will need the Lord to enable you. So, repent, ask him for a clean heart and a restoration of your joy. If you've allowed sin to put out the Spirit's fire within, **return to the Lord and Come Alive in 2025.**