

SPIRITUAL BREAKTHROUGHS

Understanding and Experiencing Repentance

Additional praises/significant happenings this past week:

Ice Breaker: What do we mean by repentance?

Read: Psalm 51:1-12, 15-17 (pray for God's guidance)

Acknowledge Sin(read Ps. 51:1-6)

1. Background: Psalm 51 is an expression of David's repentance for his sins. He had committed adultery with Bathsheba. She became pregnant. He had her husband put in harm's way so the husband was killed in battle. All the while trying to cover-up the affair. (2 Samuel 11:1-27)

How does David feel? Why is it good to experience genuine guilt (v.3)?

In verses 1 and 2, identify and contrast the 3 terms that describe God's goodness and the 3 terms that describe David's sin.

2. Since such sins are against others, what is the meaning of v. 4? What does this show about the nature of sin?

3. How did David know that God would forgive Him? How do we know God will forgive you? (see 1 John 1:5-10)

Seek the Removal of Sin (read vv. 7-9)

1. Have you ever had a toothache so painful it resulted in the tooth's being pulled or broken a bone you had to have set? How did you handle the condition? Did you take care of it yourself? What lessons do we learn from this about handling our sin problem?

2. Discuss how repentance is not our turning over a new leaf or making a resolution to do better. It involves coming to God to seek sin's removal and receiving His forgiveness.

Trust God to Renew (read vv. 10-12)

1. In order for David's conduct to change what had to happen within him?

2. In verse 10 David goes from talking about the removal of sin to the restoration of his relationship with God. Does God leave the Christian who sins against Him (Heb. 13:5)?

Discuss how the forgiveness of sin and restoring fellowship with God go together. (see Ro. 8:8-9)

Wrap up: (read vv. 15-17) How do these verses describe humility and submission to God? How does this depict a readiness to respond to God? Why does repentance need to be an ongoing attitude?

Prayer: For one another

L ♦ Learn..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living
I ♦ Invite.....welcoming others to our fellowship
F ♦ Fellowship.....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships
E ♦ Evangelism..... reaching others with the hope of Christ