

Truth #1>>>

Dealing With Sin: We can't fight it on our own

We've all tried to make a bold stand against the sin in our lives at one point or another. You may have had an incredible experience at a camp, retreat, or mission trip and decided that when you got back to school things were going to be completely different. Maybe you were convicted listening to a sermon or Sunday school lesson, and made a commitment that you were going to take care of certain sins you were struggling with. The problem is that a lot of times **the passion we have in those moments is usually short-lived**. A couple weeks later and we're right back where we started . . .

Why is this? Why do we struggle to make long-term changes? Why do spiritual highs come and go so quickly? Part of the reason is because we try and fight sin with our own strength. We set our focus on taking care of a particular action rather than looking at the root of the issue. What is the root? **Our hearts.**

Over the course of these three devotions, we're going to dig into Psalm 51. We're going to learn how to lay a foundation for living bold lives for Christ. We're going to see that in order to live bold lives for Christ, we must do three things:

- Deal with our sin
- Discover our joy
- Define our motivation

Take a few moments to read Psalm 51:1-10.

In this section of the psalm, it's pretty obvious that David is dealing with his sinfulness. He knows he has issues and it's obvious he wants some things to change. He's admitting the fact that he's been a sinner since the second he was born. David is in the same place we find ourselves when we realize there is sin in our lives that needs to be taken care of. There's a lot we can learn from how David approaches his sin.

David recognized that he **wasn't going to be able to change things through his own strength** and he cried out to God: "create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." That word "create" is the same word used in Genesis 1 for the creation of the world. David knew that for his desires and actions to change over the long-haul, it was going to have to come through the power of God. Only the God powerful enough to create the whole world is able to take a sinner's heart and make it new. David recognized his sinfulness and knew that he couldn't drum-up the strength to make changes on his own.

Follow Through>>>

- Spend a little while today (and over the next few days) reflecting on your own life. What's going on? What are you struggling with? What things do you need to get straightened out? You have to understand that the root of these issues is your heart. What is your heart set on? What is the desire of your heart? If your heart is set on anything other than Jesus, you need to cry out to God to literally create a clean heart in you.