

“RESTORE TO ME THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION”

I have to wonder -- how many of us at one time or another have cried out with this prayer as the Psalmist did -- *“Restore to me the Joy of Your Salvation -- and uphold me with Your Free Spirit”* (Psalm 51:12).

How often we wander away from our First Love and later realize it and do all we can to return to the Love of God we once knew.

Read the first few verses in Psalm 51:1-4 -- *“Have Mercy on me, O God, according to Your Lovingkindness -- according to the multitude of Your Tender Mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions -- and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight -- that You might be just when You speak, and be clear when You judge.”*

The writer of this Psalm is acknowledging that he had sinned and wandered far from the Love of God -- and now realizes that he must repent and beg for forgiveness. Have you ever felt this heart need of repentance and the need for forgiveness? Have you ever wandered far from the safety of God's Love? Have you ever felt there is no hope of restoration and returning to the place you once knew and loved?

BE ENCOURAGED -- THERE IS HOPE! God is always standing right there -- very near, waiting and willing to restore His child -- no matter how far you have wandered. Cry out, with all your heart the title of this article, *“Restore to me the Joy of Your salvation.”*

What comfort are the words of the Psalmist as he continues his cry of repentance, *“Behold, You desire Truth in the inward parts -- and in the hidden part You shall make me to know wisdom . . . Make me to hear Joy and Gladness . . . Hide Your face from my sins, blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God -- and renew a Right Spirit in me”* (Psalm 51:6-10).

What a beautiful prayer of contrition -- what a beautiful pouring out of the repentant heart. No matter what sin has caused the rift in your relationship with God He is always ready, willing, and anxious to forgive and restore.

Take serious thought to your former walk with the Lord -- or your present need of coming to Him for Salvation. Whatever your present position -- there is the open door of repentance and restoration -- IF -- we come to Him with a sincere prayer as the example in this Psalm, you will find Him waiting with open arms for you.

We are encouraged in 1 John 1:9 -- *“IF we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.”* Here is the Blessed Assurance of God's Forgiving Love. God's Love is an Everlasting Love and He has promised, *“I will NEVER leave you, nor forsake you”* (Hebrews 13:5).

The Hymn writer put it very beautifully, *“I've wandered far away from God, Now I'm coming home -- The paths of sin too long I've trod, Lord, I'm coming home. I've wasted many precious years, Now I'm coming home -- I now repent with bitter tears, Lord, I'm coming home. I'm tired of sin and straying, Lord, Now I'm coming home -- I'll trust Your Love, Believe Your Word, Lord, I'm coming home. My soul is sick, my heart is sore, Now I'm coming home -- My strength renew, my hope restore, Lord, I'm coming home.”*

Sing this precious Hymn with all your heart -- and mean it -- and He'll welcome you with open arms -- Do it TODAY -- Don't DELAY!

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*for more information contact Pastor Bruce R. Burke --*

## **OPEN BIBLE MINISTRIES**

*Lake Ariel, PA 18436 -- Phone 570-698-7890*

*E-mail [openbiblemin@verizon.net](mailto:openbiblemin@verizon.net) -- Web [www.obmworthitall.org](http://www.obmworthitall.org)*