

## AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR TROUBLING TIMES #151 (by Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe, 2/10/21)

### “As White as New Fallen Snow”

Yesterday’s thick blanket of shiny white, new fallen snow reminds me of David’s prayer after he committed adultery with Bathsheba (Psalm 51, NLT):

“...Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than SNOW. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. Don’t keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.”

Sometimes in life, we mess up, and sometimes... badly. We do or say something we regret—something that hurts others, something that hurts ourselves, something that hurts God. And, sometimes we get stuck... We can’t see past our mistakes, or sometimes others can’t see past our mistakes. Please know: No matter how badly we may have messed up, God still loves us. God still loves you! We will still face the natural consequences for our choices, but God loves us (and you) unconditionally and never gives up on us! If God can still love David after he lusted over another man’s wife, committed adultery with her, and then got the woman’s husband killed so he could marry her, then God still loves you! And if God can forgive David for all his sins, then he can forgive you—if you, like David, admit your sins to God, turn away from them, and ask him to forgive you. David was considered “a man after God’s heart” (1 Sam. 13:14) not because he was perfect (because he wasn’t), but because he loved God, confessed and turned away from his sin, and resolved to keep loving and following God. Do you?

What mistakes and sins still haunt you? Whatever they are, God still loves you and wants to forgive you and restore your relationship with him! God doesn’t just cover up your sins with snow, he washes them – away – completely – so you become (to him) whiter than new fallen snow. Will you let him? Will you let God wash you clean, give you a clean heart and new start? Will you let God shine his love so brightly through you that others see God and his love and forgiveness in you? If so, then pray Psalm 51—and let God make you as white as new fallen snow!



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