

● **WARM UP**

One day I happened to be reading Psalm 18. I'm a great admirer of David – he's called a man after God's own heart. His exploits, leadership, and love of the Lord are characteristics any man can and should aspire to.

Yet David committed a huge sin. Lusting after and raping another man's wife, and effectively murdering her husband! How can a guy who professes to loves the Lord like David (Psalms, dancing and worshipping etc) possibly commit such an act?



● **READ** Psalm 18:21-25; 2 Samuel 22:21-25

● **BACKGROUND**

When reading Psalm 18, my reference guide pointed me to 2 Samuel 22, and I realised the two passages are almost identical. The thing that really hit me was where David states, *"The Lord has dealt with me according to my righteousness... I have kept the ways of the Lord... I have not done evil..."* etc.

My immediate thought was, oh ok, so David wrote this before the Bathsheba episode. But then I did a timeline study and found David wrote these words in 1018 BC. This was 17 years after Bathsheba. What's with that? That can't be right, can it? Did David have memory loss? Had he lost his mind? Then I saw it...

David really understood what the Lord's forgiveness meant. He was living the truth that when God forgives, He also forgets, and He calls us righteous. We are no longer "sinners saved by grace" we are in fact "non sinners" and we are righteous, and as David says, *"blameless before Him (God)"*.

I'm convinced that David really understood God's heart, and wrote these words as the simple but powerful, absolute truth.

● **QUESTIONS**

1 Have we asked the Lord to forgive us our sins? If so, has He done it? Then we are no longer sinners, are we? Not saved sinners, but saints – clean, holy, righteous.

2 If God has forgiven and completely forgotten our sin, then have we forgiven ourselves?

3 Isn't this is more than good news? It's **fantastic news!** What's stopping us from telling others?

**What is God saying to me?**

● **LET'S PRAY**

● **REAL LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S POWER**



*I had asthma on and off for about three years. I went to a Bill Subritzky meeting with my mother and my sister and [Bill] prayed for me in my seat. I have been healed of asthma ever since and have been off my medication for a year. Sam*

● **CONSIDER THIS**

When God wants to convey something that's on His heart into our hearts, one of the main ways He uses is words. He's put His words into a book. So when we read or hear His Word, then we hear what is on God's heart. He's put two identical chapters of His heart into His Word to ensure we get the message loud and clear.

1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness."*

If you are cleansed, you are clean. Let's not hold onto old images of our old, failing, dirty selves. That's not who we are. Let's get up and live as the free, clean, righteous men that we are. And let's spread that great news.

E.M Bounds said, "Men are God's methods. While the world looks for better methods, God looks for better men."