PSALM 51  CLEARING UP HEART CLOTS.
V.10-' Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.'
pastor at Ada, phone call telling me my father had suffered a heart attack. That night, we threw clothes in the car and drove 14 hours to get to Mississippi arriving before dawn. Walked into the CCU unit - visited a few minutes. Before I could even get home, the hospital called saying they were transferring dad to Mobile. He had four blocked arteries and needed surgery.

THIS PSALM IS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED FOR CLEARING UP OUR HEARTS.
PROBLEM WE FACE IS - all of us have something clogging our heart. Open heart surgery become common procedure. I wish the clearing out of our spiritual hearts were as common. We love to hide our sin - when we do - it causes clots, blockage in our spiritual lives.
David's sin with Bathsheba and the events that followed created a clot in Davids heart. He was a man after God's own heart, but he had a blockage that needed to be removed.

Today - nobody wants to take personal responsibility.
--People sue cigarette companies for their lung cancer - The company didn't make them smoke.
--Others seek clemency for their crimes, blaming their heritage, parents, environment.
--Repeated court cases where women who have killed their husbands avoid long term imprisonment because they are absolved of responsibility for their actions.

WE LIVE IN A NATION OF VICTIMS & BLAME.
It was the defense of Lorena Bobbitt/ The Menendez Brothers. Doug Erlandson-'This phenomenon of absolving people is not confined to the criminal justice system. Almost anything - from chronic drunkenness to eating disorders to failure to hold a job - is rationalized through the excuse of victimization.'
Time, Aug. 15, 1994, 'Infidelity: It may be in our genes' - In the article adultery is justified on the grounds we are genetically preprogrammed to be unfaithful.

Don't want to belabor this point, but a recent Doonsebury cartoon parodied this situation.
A professor stands in front of class, asking anyone claiming victim status on the basis of 'race, gender, ethnicity, sexual preference or disability' to register with the dean to avoid being graded on merit. 'HE ADDED, "Be sure to register no later than October 31. If you do not register your status as a victim by that time, you will not be able to claim preferential treatment.'

A VOICE IN BACK ASKS, 'What about the time impaired? Doesn't setting a deadline discriminate against them?'

PROFESSOR, 'Of course. Exceptions will be made for the totally clueless.'

Do you even have a clue as to why you feel alienated from God?

EVERYWHERE YOU TURN:
'I'T'S NOT MY FAULT' 'I CAN'T BE BLAMED' 'I REFUSE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY' 'THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT'
All points to heart problem. An unwillingness to take personal responsibility.

HARDEST WORDS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARE 'I HAVE SINNED.' OR 'I WAS WRONG' OR 'IT'S MY FAULT' 'BLAME ME' 'THE BUCK STOPS HERE'

David wrote this Psalm when Nathan the prophet confronted him about his affair with Bathsheba. David had been involved in the double sin of adultery and murder.

Although he walked with God - he took his eyes off the Lord and fell into immorality. He gives us the record of the sin in 2 Samuel 12.

His sin is recorded in great detail, not for our stimulation but our edification.

Scripture records his failure, but also carefully records his confession.

As with so many things in Bible, we have grown accustomed to Psalm and David's sin that we think nothing of it.

Nathan had no power over David. When he confronted the king, David could have laughed him off, had him put to death.

NATHAN GOES AFTER THE SIN IN DAVID'S HEART LIKE A SURGEON. How does the King respond?

1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions,
sin is ever before me. 4 Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, and blameless when Thou dost judge.

DAVID STARTS OUR WITH GREAT ANGUISH BUT ENDS UP IN GREAT WORSHIP.
Forgiveness and confession will do that for a person.
The key to David's comeback is found in the word 'spirit.' It is used 4X in this Psalm.

v.10 'Renew a steadfast SPIRIT w/in me'
v.11 'Do not take Thy Holy SPIRIT from me' (this is what had happened to Saul for his sin).
v.12 'Sustain me with a willing SPIRIT.'
v.17 -'The sacrifices of God are a broken SPIRIT; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.'

WANT TO SUGGEST TO YOU FOUR SPIRITUAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES YOU NEED TO CLEAR OUT YOUR HEART CLOTS.

I. LET GOD RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT IN YOU.
David requested a renewed spirit - it indicates he was admitting he had a wrong spirit.
BEFORE GOD CAN BLESS YOU, HE MUST BREAK YOU.
Before you can get a right spirit, you have to let the Holy Spirit cut out the wrong spirit.
Why did David sin?
He was in bed when kings go to war - LAZINESS
He saw Bathsheba and LUSTED after her.
He had her husband killed - LICENSE. Thought he had the right to take another man's life to save his reputation.

How do we come to a renewed a steadfast spirit? What will it take to stabilize our faith?
Repentance.
You won't desire a renewed spirit until you are willing to confess your sin before God. Call it what it is.

Most have one list of terms to describe our sin and another list to describe the same sin in others.

others are prejudiced we have convictions
others have bad temper we righteously indignant

II. WALK IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
David wanted the assurance that God would be with him. Heb.13:50-'I will never fail you or forsake you'

ONLY WHEN YOU WALK IN THE POWER OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS CAN YOU KNOW THE POWER OF GOD'S PRESENCE.
2 Peter 1:3-'His divine power has granted to us ALL things that pertain to life and godliness'

The very life of Jesus in us is the power that it takes to break free from the power of sin.
What does it take to walk in this kind of power?

v.6-'Behold, Thou dost desire TRUTH in the innermost part'

David knew it was not enough to be forgiven by the Son, we must be changed by the Spirit.

GET HONEST WITH SELF/ W/ GOD - HOW? BY GETTING IN WORD AND WALKING IN GOD'S WILL.

'create in me a clean heart'- nothing less than a creative act of omnipotence will do. Not just a tune up but an overhaul. SIN NEEDS WASHING WHITE, NOT WHITE WASHING.
'take not Thy Holy Spirit from me'- David is confessing his utter dependence on God - not just for forgiveness but for his daily walk.

PARDON + PURIFICATION = POWER.

III.LIVE IN THE JOY OF THE LIBERATING SPIRIT

'sustain me w/ a willing spirit'
'willing' free/ liberating. The work of the Spirit is to flood our lives with the peace, power, forgiveness of God.
GOD HAS NO DESIRE TO SEE US PERMANENTLY CRIPPLED OR DISABLED BY GUILT.
Stuart Briscoe- 'guilt when dealt with, brokenness when healed, despair when banished are preludes to the liberating peace and joy that only those motivated by the Spirit of God can experience.'

people in this room, desperately need to Great Physician to do open heart surgery and 'restore the joy of Thy salvation'
HOW CAN GOD DO THIS? SUGGESTIONS:
1-ACCEPT YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.
Quit blaming Adam and Eve - your parents - the devil - look in the mirror and say - I'm to blame. Face the music - face yourself - face the consequences.

STOP WORRYING ABOUT YOUR REPUTATION AND ACCEPT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

*Quit focusing on your image and ask God for His image in you.*

Matthew Henry-'Sin is a brat that nobody is willing to own.'

'cleanse ME' 'create in ME' 'restore ME' 'wash ME'

2-ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS  BY FAITH 1 John 1:9

J.C. is our atoning sacrifice for sin - propitiation - means 'something that pacifies' God has been pacified by the blood of Jesus. When we confess our sin to God we have no reason to feel guilty. We can accept our sinfulness and God's forgiveness.

YOU MUST BELIEVE IN THE LOVE & MERCY OF GOD.

3-ASK FOR FORGIVENESS Who have you offended? hurt? Swallow your pride or you'll live with permanent spiritual indigestion because of sin. Sin will give you a heartburn that never stops.

*California company, APOLOGY ACCEPTED will tailor make an apology to fit any occasion. The owners call themselves 'locksmiths who reopen doors of communication'*

Save your money and do it yourself. Call them up, write them, say, "I'm sorry." Don't try to play Holy spirit in their lives, just do what the Holy Spirit tells you to do about your life.

4-FORGIVE OTHERS. Matt 6:12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.....14 "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

5-ACCEPT WHAT YOU CAN NOT CHANGE. Others may not forgive you, but God has. The marriage may not be resorted, but your heart can be. The kids may not change their actions, but you've changed your heart.

David prayed 'sustain me' - uphold me. He admitted his weakness. He confessed his inadequacy. He was free to be honest and that was liberating.

BUT I WANT JUSTICE - I WAS ONE MISTREATED.
Like lady had picture taken. She said to photographer, 'These pictures don't do me justice' He said, 'You don't need justice lady, you need mercy.'

**IV. UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS OF A BROKEN SPIRIT.**

What happens when you allow the Holy Spirit to renew you. When you let the Holy Spirit deal with you in the inner most parts of your being? When you are honest to God? Give him permission to do His healing work in your heart?

1-**YOU'LL HAVE A CLEAN HEART** v.10
2-**YOU'LL HAVE A STEADFAST SPIRIT** v.10,12 You will come to appreciate the stability Christ can bring to your life. 'Christ in you the hope of glory'
3-**YOU'LL EXPERIENCE A NEW ASSURANCE** v.11 God will not be a distant deity, He will be like a Father to you.
4-**YOU'LL DISPLAY A NEW JOY** v.12 not depending on circumstances to make you laugh, smile, but a joy that comes from within. A countenance that glows with the presence of Christ.
5-**YOU'LL RECEIVE A NEW MINISTRY** v.13 'Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will be converted to Thee.'
6-**YOU'LL ENJOY A NEW ATTITUDE ABOUT WORSHIP** v.14-16 14b-'Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Thy righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Thy praise.'

**IF YOU AREN'T ENJOYING WORSHIP - IT MAY BE BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT A CLOT IN YOUR HEART - A LUMP OF SIN IN YOUR THROAT.**

- Get out of the MIRE and into the CHOIR.
7-**YOU'LL DEVELOP A NEW ATTITUDE** v.17 'The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise'

- NOT COCKY, ARROGANT, SELF SUFFICIENT, BUT HUMBLE BEFORE THE LORD.

8-**YOU'LL HAVE RESTORED VISION** v.18,19 'By thy favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then Thou wilt delight in righteous sacrifices, in burnt offering and whole burnt offering, Then young bulls will be offered on Thine altar.'
RIGHT W/ GOD - DON'T MIND GIVING see offering as a part of worship. Sacrifice as a necessary lifestyle. Giving as an act of obedience. BOOK, A NATION OF VICTIMS author Charles Sykes wrote of America as a nation with an 'irresistible search for someone or something to blame colliding with the unmovable unwillingness to accept responsibility.'

God's spirit is here to warn you - direct you - change you - but you have to listen to Him and do as He says.

Guy named Edwin bought a car with one of those voice warning systems. Soft female voice that reminded him if seat belt wasn't fastened/ gas was low/ door was open. Soon after buying car - he named the voice, 'The Little Woman.' One day, driving along she said, 'Fuel level is low.' He nodded his head and thanked her. Figured he still had 50 miles to go, so keep driving. In only a few minutes, "Fuel level is low' and kept going off every minute. Although he knew it was a computer recording, he was sure the voice was sounding harsher each time. Finally, he stopped the car, crawled under the dashboard and after a quick search yanked the appropriate wires to shut up the little woman. He got back in his car and ran out of gas. Edwin says he was sure he heard a little woman laughing inside his dash.

IF YOU IGNORE THE LITTLE VOICE INSIDE - OUR TRY TO DISCONNECT IT - YOU WILL CUT OFF THE VERY ONE WHO IS TELLING YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.