

# Where Are You?

Week 1 | The Lie of Shame

Pastor Jordan Biel | 08.01.21



**Prayer** - God open our hearts to know Your love for us today. As we read about Adam, as we read about David, help us to find ourselves in their story and see the patterns and warning signs that keep us from knowing You.

## David & Bathsheba

### 2 Samuel 11

David certainly wasn't perfect. History has painted him accurately as a passionate person. He's the type to be all-in or all-out-crazy. If he did something, he did it "big" whether that was winning battles - each and every one - wanting to build a tabernacle for God and getting all the provisions for his son to do so - or even in the case of his weak moments, his sin, he did it big. Most of you might be familiar with the time David had an affair with Bathsheba. Turn to 2 Sam 11.

Before David was appointed King, his character tests included the opportunity to kill Saul, his King and father in law, the man who was trying to kill him! He passed the test and chose not to harm him, letting God sort out the details of revenge.

Once David was appointed King, the character tests didn't end. It's possible they were only beginning. You and I need to know that. Just because we've served God for a long time, it doesn't mean we're less prone to have a wandering, sinful heart or a carnal natural that needs crucified every now and then. Jesus instructed us to take up our cross and follow Him - denying ourselves at times the very things we're tempted to have.

For now, we will face temptation and be "prone to wander." And it's possible now that if we're promoted at work or given some amazing blessings that we will face it even more, it's just a different type of temptation then. Satan, like a good business owner, knows how to re-package the same thing.

The Bible tells us that "In the time when Kings went out to war, David stayed home." Three verses later we read that he noticed Bathsheba naked on the rooftop. So just think, he's lounging on his rooftop deck, ignoring his duty as King to lead the charge and lift the moral of his soldiers in battle.

David saw her and asked about her. He was warned "Don't do it. She's married."

David insisted on meeting her, ignoring the voice of the Holy Spirit warning him to stay away. He let his guard down for a moment. He chose selfishness over integrity, lust over restraint.

You may know the story but I'll summarize it by saying **This one act of sin caused a domino affect inflicting harm on everyone in it's path.** Ultimately his sin not only lead to the murder of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, but also death in David's own family. His family became a nightmare following this affair and murder. A few weeks ago, I encouraged you to never believe the lie from Satan that says *Your private sin won't affect your public life.* *Sin always leads you away from God - to death scripture says.*

Satan wants us to live in shame, the result of sin. So how do we avoid sin? There are three things that happened before David committed murder and before the affair.

Three warning signs:

**Isolation**

**Boredom**

**Pride**

When we ignore what God's calling us to do, when we begin to be lazy, we tend to be more attracted to what Satan offers. A simpler way to point out the obvious here is something I've said before ... "Bored people do dumb things." At least that's what I've noticed over the years.

Blaise Pascal, the renown mathematician and theologian, wrote **"All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone."** - Blaise Pascal

We are living in a time when stillness or rest is virtually obsolete. People have a felt need to be given a screen to view, a post to read, something to be entertained by at every minute of the day. We're trained now. But I wonder if God wants to reprogram your brain? I wonder if you and I need to learn how to be still and quiet in the presence of God and simply be. If you can't do that, you're restless. David was restless in this moment. He had forgotten what he learned years before - how to be still in the presence of God.

David was a friend of God, that's for sure.

David was close to God and loved God dearly, as his very own Father! We can see that based on what he writes in the book of Psalms. But I wonder if David's alone time with God had started to suffer. I wonder if David's friendship with God had started to suffer because he was so busy being the leader, putting out fires, making plans, hearing concerns, etc. Maybe you've been too busy for God lately? Work schedules, sports, entertainment, investments, time with family, not of these things are bad. They're not bad until they become an idol - something taking your time and attention and affection away from God.

I believe that he had lost some of the WONDER of knowing God. He had become too busy to sit still and think about the goodness of God. This made him prone to temptation. When you lose your wonder, you begin to wander.

**Don't lose the wonder of knowing Jesus, His friendship, His nearness, His power to heal and to save.** When you do and you begin to feel “bored” in life, be careful, that's a warning sign. That boredom is a warning that you may not be doing what God has asked you to do.

That void of not doing God's will and being bored puts you in a place where you then feel the need to *fill* the need and to do so by sinning. David was supposed to be on the battle field with his men! He wasn't supposed to be on that roof! When you avoid what God tells you to do, you may end up “in the wrong place at the wrong time” a perfect scenario for Satan to tempt you.

I love how Jesus said in numerous ways **“My satisfaction (joy) comes from doing the will of My Father.” - Jesus**

Let the Lord's voice fill that role of meaning and joy. Let Him entertain you and give you satisfaction. Again, bored people do dumb things. Let the Lord fill you with wonder again! Do what you have to do to find that wonder. Spend a few days in prayer. Go sight-seeing and take in some of God's creation. List on paper what's amazing about God. But when you feel yourself getting bored, that's the yellow light before the red light of a collision. Be filled with wonder at the goodness of God in the life of Jesus! Find what God's called you to do and stay faithful in it.

Holiness is about letting God separate you from the world. This doesn't happen just once at our salvation. Yes, we are born again and receive a new nature! But just like one who is born, there is growing up to do, there are things to learn. We are saved. We are being saved. And one day we'll be completely saved. That is how the Apostle Paul put it. **God has “given us every thing we need for right living” and the joy we so desire.** AND we've been “given a new nature” through Christ! But we must allow the transformation to take place. Holiness is not about isolation though. David isolated himself from the loving warning of his friends. His friend gave him a piece of advice and David wasn't hearing it. Isolation, being unwilling to be influenced or corrected by friends, is a big yellow light for your faith.

If we could invite Charles Spurgeon to the table and ask him to talk to us about this idea of character tests and allowing God to make us “holy” he'd say something like the following taken from a devotional he wrote in 1896

*Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling.” — 2 Timothy 1:9*

*The apostle uses the perfect tense and says, “Who hath saved us.” Believers in Christ Jesus are saved. They are not looked upon as persons who are in a hopeful state, and may ultimately be saved, but they are already saved. Salvation is not a blessing to be enjoyed upon the dying bed, and to be sung of in a future state above, but a matter to be obtained, received, promised, and enjoyed now. The Christian is perfectly saved in God's purpose; God has ordained him unto salvation, and that purpose is complete. He is saved also as to the price which has been paid for him: “It is finished” was the cry of the Saviour when He died. The believer is also perfectly saved in his covenant head, for*

*as he fell in Adam, so he lives in Christ. This complete salvation is accompanied by a holy calling. Those whom the Saviour saved upon the cross are in due time effectually called by the power of God the Holy Spirit unto holiness: they leave their sins; they endeavour to be like Christ; they choose holiness, not out of any compulsion, but from the stress of a new nature, which leads them to rejoice in holiness just as naturally as aforetime they delighted in sin. God neither chose them nor called them because they were holy, but he called them that they might be holy, and holiness is the beauty produced by His workmanship in them. The excellencies which we see in a believer are as much the work of God as the atonement itself. Thus is brought out very sweetly the fulness of the grace of God. Salvation must be of grace, because the Lord is the author of it: and what motive but grace could move him to save the guilty? Salvation must be of grace, because the Lord works in such a manner that our righteousness is for ever excluded. Such is the believer's privilege—a present salvation; such is the evidence that he is called to it—a holy life.*

Spurgeon, C. H. (1896). Morning and evening: Daily readings

We're all called to a holy life and Spurgeon invites us into that life of holiness, the life that glorifies God. There is a beauty in holiness. Sometimes when you hear the word "holy" you may interpret "boring" or "rule-following" While holiness is an avoidance of sin and holiness is nearness to God and trust me, nearness to God is anything but boring.

This holiness we are called to does have so many moments when God, who is holy, calls us away from sin or selfish living and into HIS way of thinking and HIS way of living. He IS holy. He invites us into that.

**If we are to be *holy* and if our lives are to glorify God then we've got to be willing to heed the voice of the *Holy Spirit* when He warns us to stay away from sin be it greed, anger, jealousy, pride, gossip, pornography/ lust ... you name it.**

Here's an excellent excerpt from Pastor Eric Geiger:

*So that new buildings can be constructed in cities, large buildings often need to be removed. And there is more than one way to take down a large structure. Instead of attaching large wrecking balls to cranes and destroying a building from the outside, demolition experts often take down the building from the inside. They place explosive devices at critical structural points in the building and set them off in sequence so that the building topples from the inside. It implodes, and people come from all over to watch it fall. People love to see a good implosion.*

*Before the implosion happens, everything seems normal to the casual onlooker. There is not a crane, a wrecking ball, or construction workers in hardhats announcing the looming destruction. Except for the caution tape, everything looks normal. But beneath the surface, the implosion is being meticulously planned, and the building does not stand a chance.*

*Leaders implode too. While attacks from the outside can harm leaders, implosion from the inside is what takes many leaders down.*

*When David, the king of Israel, imploded and traded his integrity for a night with a woman who was married to one of his soldiers, there were several explosives at work*

*on the foundation of his life (see 2 Samuel 11:1-5). He was isolated, as he sent men away who would have held him accountable. He was bored, as he walked on the roof of the palace looking for something else instead of thinking on the Lord, as he would later do, through the watches of the night. He was filled with pride, as he insisted people bring Bathsheba to him even though they pointed out that she was married.*

**Isolation. Boredom. Pride.** When these three reside in your life, you're headed toward implosion - a drastic sinful mistake - a moral failure.

*Think of these as the flashing warning lights.*

*Isolation says*

*Boredom says*

*Pride says*

Ask God to remind you of His goodness today. Ask God's Holy Spirit to make you holy. Ask God to fill you wonder again! Why? When you're entertained by God, you won't feel the need to be entertained by the devil.

God is so entertaining to me lately! He amazes me. He is so thoughtful, so powerful yet so personal. Let GOD entertain you. Ask HIM to fill you with wonder again!

**Ask the Father what Jesus taught us to ask "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."** God hears that simple prayer and will give you the strength to leave the temptation and overcome sin. Look upon Jesus, the One who took the punishment of sin in our place. Ask Him to give you strength for today and He most certainly will!

So that set up that was given to him from satan - isolation, boredom & pride - caused him to sin and that sin caused him to be filled with shame and regret and he even started to avoid God. Can you imagine his daily time with God in the morning and him just feeling like "God doesn't even want to talk to me."

That shame further perpetuates the lie of isolation - avoiding God - avoiding God's people.

You'll find this same patter today - maybe in the life of someone you know that is avoiding Jesus even though you know God's Spirit is after their heart, inviting them into the kingdom. Maybe it's a pattern you see in your own life today. If so, I'm believing God is going to FREE you of that shame and give you reconciliation today. Philippians teaches us there is no reconciliation without humility though so it will require you owning up to your fault and your sin. So what is that pattern? It looks like this:

Lie - Lie from Satan that God is not trustworthy and holding something good from you.

Temptation - Temptation to sin - to disobey God's voice or instruction given in His Word

Sin - if comitted

Shame - the lie that God doesn't want you anymore. It's the lie of separation.

God is never about separation. He's always about reconciliation. After shame there

[Lie > Temptation > Sin > Shame > Separation > Eternal Separation](#)

OR

[Lie > Temptation \(6:23\) > Sin > Shame > HS Invites Us > Repentance > Reconciliation > Joy](#)

So how did this play out with David? How was he reconciled?

So after David committed adultery by sleeping with Uriah's wife, he tried to cover it up. He invited Uriah home to sleep with Basheeba in case she became pregnant, Uriah would believe it was his. Uriah said "how can I sleep with my wife in comfort when my men are out on the field" and he was too honorable towards his men to do that. David as you know from earlier, sent Uriah off to war and instructed other generals to put Uriah at the front of the battle line where it was most dangerous - ensuring he would die. This was a form of murder. He knew it. God knew it. There was no hiding from it. Although he didn't swing the sword, he murdered the husband of the woman he had an affair with, then tried to hide it.

You'll find this same pattern in your life too. [When God lovingly convicts you of sin, you'll be tempted to lie about it - to cover it up - to hide your sin and eventually even hide from God. All the while, God is asking ... "Where are you?"](#)

Nathan, David's friend, gets what we would call, a *word of knowledge* about David and his sin. He confronts David and gives him an invitation to repent by giving him a story of a very selfish, harmful man. He then says "you are that man 'God says'" pick up in vs 7 .

[2 Samuel 12:1-15 \(ESV\): And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, 7... "You are the man who has committed this sin! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 8 And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.](#)

[9 Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house,](#)

[because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'](#)

[11 Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'](#) "

When we mess up, we need to fess up. When we confess our sins, God is so gracious that He forgives us and brings us back into friendship. Why? He loves us that much. Let His love remove your shame today!

SEGUAY

What we find in the life of David in his weakest moment as a follower of God is the same thing we find in the very first humans that walked the earth. Turn to Genesis 1, we'll start at vs. 26. God had made the earth, the animals and so forth and now He's going to create mankind, His special creation.

## Adam & Eve

**Gen 1:26-30** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the

earth.”<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”<sup>29</sup> And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.”<sup>30</sup>

Genesis 2:8–9 (ESV): And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15–17 (ESV): The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Then God made woman/ EVE

Genesis 3:1–11 (ESV): 3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened,

and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **the man and his wife hid** themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “**Where are you?**” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked?”

That is the question that God asks every man and every woman “Where are you? Why are you hiding from me?”

Genesis 3:11–16 (ESV): Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

14 The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Skip down to Chapter 3, verse 20

Genesis 3:20–24 (ESV): The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. 22 Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—”

23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

### **Satan was an angel in heaven who one day desired to be worshiped - to be like God.**

#### **Is. 14; Rev. 9:1; Lk 10:18**

That desire grew to the point that God had to remove him from Heaven.

\*Isaiah 14:12; Rev. 9:1 both reiterate this truth.

Isaiah 14 in particular tells the story of how Satan got to this place - the envy in his heart and the punishment God gave him.

Isaiah 14:12–17 (ESV): How you are fallen from heaven,  
O Day Star, son of Dawn!

How you are cut down to the ground,  
you who laid the nations low!

13 You said in your heart,  
'I will ascend to heaven;  
above the stars of God

I will set my throne on high;  
I will sit on the mount of assembly  
in the far reaches of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High.'

15 But you are brought down to Sheol,  
to the far reaches of the pit.

16 Those who see you will stare at you  
and ponder over you:

'Is this the man who made the earth tremble,  
who shook kingdoms,

17 who made the world like a desert



and overthrew its cities...”

I love how in this passage, we find that not only is Satan defeated because of his pride but he’s humiliated as the nations will look and say “Is *this* is the one who deceived the nations and who made the earth tremble?” This little guy!?!

Even Jesus echoed this fact about Satan being cast out of Heaven when teaching his disciples who wanted power to heal the sick but their motives were a bit skewed.

Lk 10:18 Jesus is teaching about authority and what it means to walk in the power of God, healing the sick, casting out demons, etc and he says “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

So it’s important to understand these basic theological truths to you can best fight temptation. When you know who you’re fighting, you’re more likely to win.

So this is who Satan is. He’s mad at God. God put him in his place.

**Satan’s goal is to get revenge at God by convincing you not to trust Him.**

So God gave them ALL the trees and fruit bushes - a MYRIAD of good options. He only gave them ONE option not to eat from - the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan convinced them that God was withholding something good from them. By the way, that’s always how Satan’s lies begin. He aims to convince you that God isn’t good and that God isn’t generous and kind. He tries to harm God’s good name. He convinced them that God wasn’t trustworthy even though God had done nothing to deserve that; He had only done everything to bless Adam and Eve and give them perfect paradise.

There was a second tree in the garden - the tree of life.

It’s interesting to note that God said He would need to banish them from the garden of Eden not only because of their sin in the sense of punishment - but because He said that if they were to eat from the tree of life, they would never die - they would forever continue on in that fallen, sinful state. Interesting.

What does that tell us?

**God’s decisions for us that at times feel like punishment are in fact a blessing to protect us. Why? He’s our Father who knows what’s best for us. God can be trusted. Don’t listen to that voice that Adam and Eve listened to that day. God can be trusted! Jesus is trustworthy and kind.**

Sin

Hiding

Questions from God

“Who told you that you were naked? Who told you?”

It’s so important that you know who you’re listening to!

Look at this pattern I see in the life of ...

Lucifer (who is Satan)

Adam & Eve

David

**The lie is GOD is withholding something good from you & that you need something else - something God has not given you - to be truly happy. This was true of Lucifer, Adam & Eve & David.**

**Satan** (was Lucifer in Heaven) was given authority as a chief musician - the beauty of Heaven! The two Scripture passages that describe Satan before he fell are [Ezekiel 28:12-19](#) and [Isaiah 14:12-15](#). Satan was the “anointed cherub” ([Ezekiel 28:14](#)). He was adorned with every

precious jewel imaginable ([Ezekiel 28:13](#)). He was “the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty” ([Ezekiel 28:12b](#)). Likely he was the highest of all angels. He was persuasive enough to convince one-third of the angels to join him in his rebellion ([Revelation 12:4](#)). Even after his fall from heaven, not even Michael the archangel dared to stand up to him without the Lord’s help ([Jude 9](#)). Satan fell because of pride. He did not like being “second best.” He wanted to be God: “You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain’” ([Isaiah 14:13](#)). Considering the fact that the angels constantly worship God ([Isaiah 6:3](#); [Revelation 4:8](#)), it is possible that Satan led that worship. One thing is sure: for Satan to rebel despite having such an exalted position and close relationship with God, the devil is surely due his eternal destiny ([Revelation 20:10](#)).

**Satan (Lucifer in Heaven) was given leadership, beauty & opportunity by God and it wasn’t enough.**

Adam and Eve

They were given every fruit bearing bush, trees, dominion over the animals, perfect peace with the lions, the jaguars, the elephants, total dominion and perfect peace in paradise.

**Adam and Eve were given everything they could possibly want, and yet, it wasn’t enough.**

King David

David was given the anointing to become King of Israel, protection from his enemies, enemies nearby in Saul, enemies outside of Israel from other countries, God protected David, gave him favor, authority, peace & prosperity. And for David, **it wasn’t enough.**

**When you and I sin, it’s because we believe God hasn’t given us enough. Nothing could be further from the truth. He’s given us EVERYTHING!**

Lie that God didn’t give us enough.

Sin that causes shame.

Shame that causes separation.

Accusation continues separation and yet ...

God always invites us back into reconciliation. He tells us to look upon JESUS, the one who took our punishment and makes a way for us to united with Father God again!

**God is constantly asking mankind “Why are you hiding from me? “Where are you?”**

We know why. If we’re honest it’s because we know we’re sinful and not perfect and we know deep down that He is perfect.

Then we don’t commit to God bc we feel He’s let us down. We say to Him Where are you? Or better yet Where were you? Where were you when my sister died? Where were You when my dad died. Where were you when I got cancer?

God allows us to love in a world with free will. Why? Love can only exist in the context of free will. God gave us that free will so we could choose to truly love Him. Some don’t. Some choose instead to ignore His invitation to friendship and forgiveness. Others accept the invitation - to leave shame behind and be FOUND by God.

Are you hiding like Adam? Are you running like David from your mistakes? Are you listening to the voice of Satan who tells you that what God has given you simply isn’t enough?!

At the end of this message, I encourage you to accept the invitation to friendship and forgiveness.

You can be angry at God today - feeling like He left you when you were at your lowest.

None of this changes His desire for friendship with you. None of the pain that was caused by others stops God from wanting you. None of the shame that was caused by your own sin stops God from wanting you! He was right there with you - in the midst of your anger - in the middle of your pain. Satan wants you to remain in shame. God wants you FREE!

What's so amazing about God is that He doesn't respond to broken people the way we do.

### **God defines us not by our actions but by His.**

We define by actions

That man is a murderer because he murdered someone.

That woman is a banker because she works at the bank and manages loans and banking.

That thief is a thief. Why? He stole stuff.

God looks at us and despite our history of sinning - of actions that were selfish or harmful - and he doesn't call us "sinners" and give us judgment. Instead, He took on that judgment and died in the cross. **He not only died for us but died as us. When Jesus died, we died. When He rose to new life, we rose to new life. His identity becomes ours and His actions define our lives and our value, not ours! Look to JESUS to be rid of shame and discover who you really are!**

God defines us by very own standards. We are HIS and we are LOVED before we act. WOW.

When we come to Christ in salvation, we are simply returning to our original design. We are returning to Eden. We are returning to friendship with God. We are returning to bearing the beautiful, glorious image of God. WOW

*This will be a nice set up for Andrew...*

We are even called a "new creation" 2 Co 5:17

It's like CREATION all over again - YOU are made NEW when you come to Christ and let Him forgive you and bring you into holiness and into friendship with Him.

### The lie of Shame: "But I can't change. I'll always be stuck"

You may

2 Peter 1:2-4

#### **DIVINE NATURE**

**2 Peter 1:2-9 (ESV): May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.**

#### **Confirm Your Calling and Election**

**3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.**

**SO INTERESTING!**

He is saying although you have made mistakes, it's not that you are now lost or no longer God's child but rather, that you have forgotten who you are! "He is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins."

God's Spirit who makes US NEW teaches us to avoid sin and live righteous AND live in the miraculous!

**Titus 2:11–14 (ESV): For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.**

**RESPONSE TIME**

You're going to hear a song called Take Me Back To Eden

Take me back to Eden plays on Spotify while Prayer Team comes forward

Maybe you're not walking with the Lord at all. Today is the day to give your heart to Jesus.

Maybe you love Jesus but there's something you've been trying to hide from Him - maybe you've been trying to hide from Him. Today, come clean. Be honest. Be real. He already knows. He's just waiting on you to admit - let HIM take that burden from you today.

God does NOT want you living with shame!

Romans says

There is therefore no condemnation - NO SHAME - for those that have accepted Christ Jesus! So if you're feeling shame and distant from God then you need to understand that's a LIE from the enemy. Satans you to believe that you are far from God and always will be.

**God wants you to believe and know that His love for you has never changed. He knows your name and He wants to forgive you, make you clean and give you a fresh start and perfect peace!**

**There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

**Heirs with Christ**

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Ro 8:1–15). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.