

The darkest blot on the life of David was his double sin of adultery and accomplice to mass murder. (2 Samuel 11) David took another man's wife, and then tried to hide his sin by having the woman's husband and his troops killed in battle. He remained quiet about his actions for almost a year. After the baby that was conceived was born, a prophet confronted David, and he confessed his sin. Psalm 51 contains the record of his sorrowful confession to God.

David's words in his psalm reflect "a broken spirit ... and a contrite heart". So we know that God heard his confession and forgave him for his horrendous sins. But what about the actual consequences of his sins? Confession does not remove consequences. The child that was born died, and several other tragic events happened in the lives of David's adult children. God promises to forgive our sins, but He does not promise to erase the consequences of our sins.

It takes contrition and humility to confess our sins, but it takes the same attitudes to live with the consequences. Thankfully, God gives restoring grace to heal and repair.

Psalm 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart - these, O God, You will not despise."