

Create in me
a clean heart,
O God.

Psalm 51:10

New Baptist Church
October 4, 2026

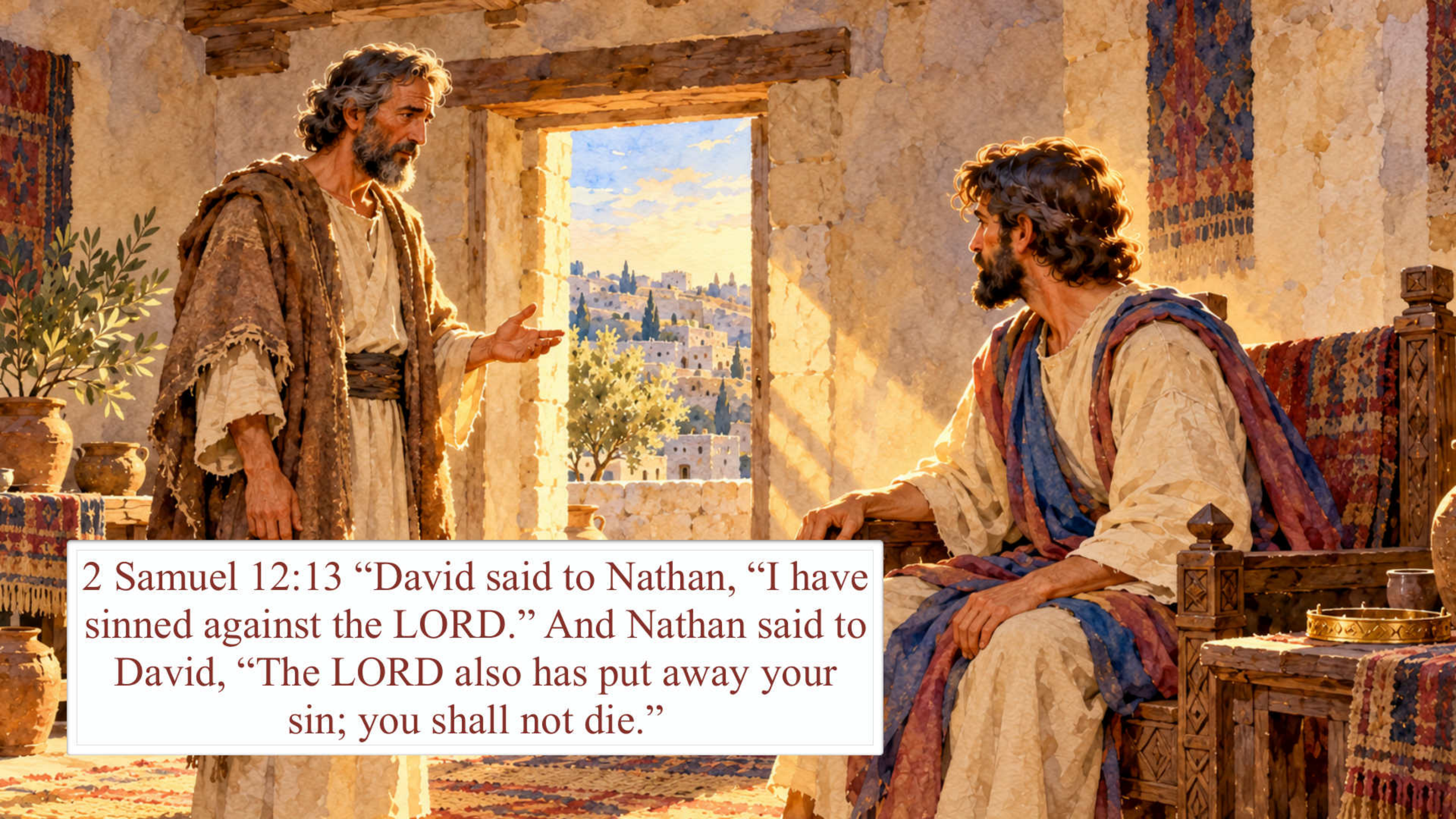


Psalm 51

““0 To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.”







2 Samuel 12:13 “David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”

Psalm 51

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Sin: חָטָא, (*chata*) = *to miss the mark, to go wrong, to fail in one's duty*. There is a standard, and sin is when one's actions fail to line up with or meet the standard. (The law is the standard by which our lives are measured).

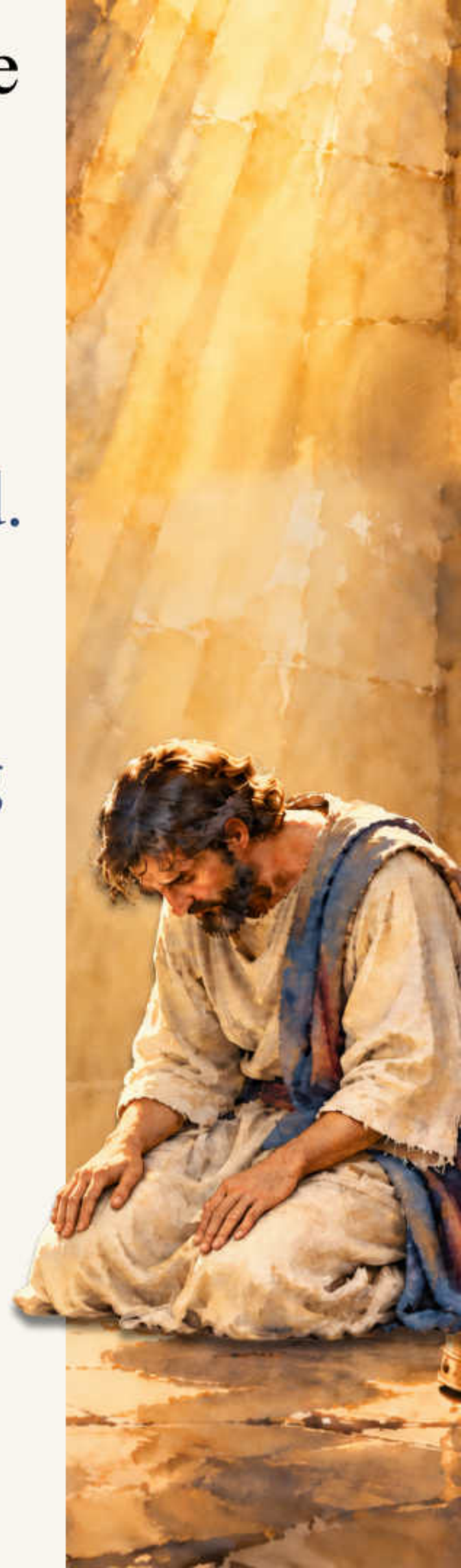
Transgression: פְּשָׁע (pesha) = *Revolt, Rebellion, or breaking trust*. Breaking faith with God is rebellion, as well as being unfaithful with what He has entrusted to us. Transgressions also include actions that harm others.

Iniquity: עָוֹן ('āwōn) = *to bend, twist, or distort*. Iniquity can describe both a condition and an action. We don't simply do wrong things; something in the human heart is disordered (iniquity).



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David's adultery with Bathsheba did not suddenly appear out of nowhere. Before there was adultery, there was a desire that was twisted. Before there was murder, there was a heart willing to value David's reputation and desires above the life of another man. His actions were sinful, and they violated trust, but beneath those actions was something deeper: David wanted the wrong thing in the wrong way and was willing to distort everything around him in order to have it. ***That is iniquity. And it is the Human Condition.***



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4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. David is confessing that the only standard by which our lives are measured is the one that God sets. This is the standard he has fallen short of.



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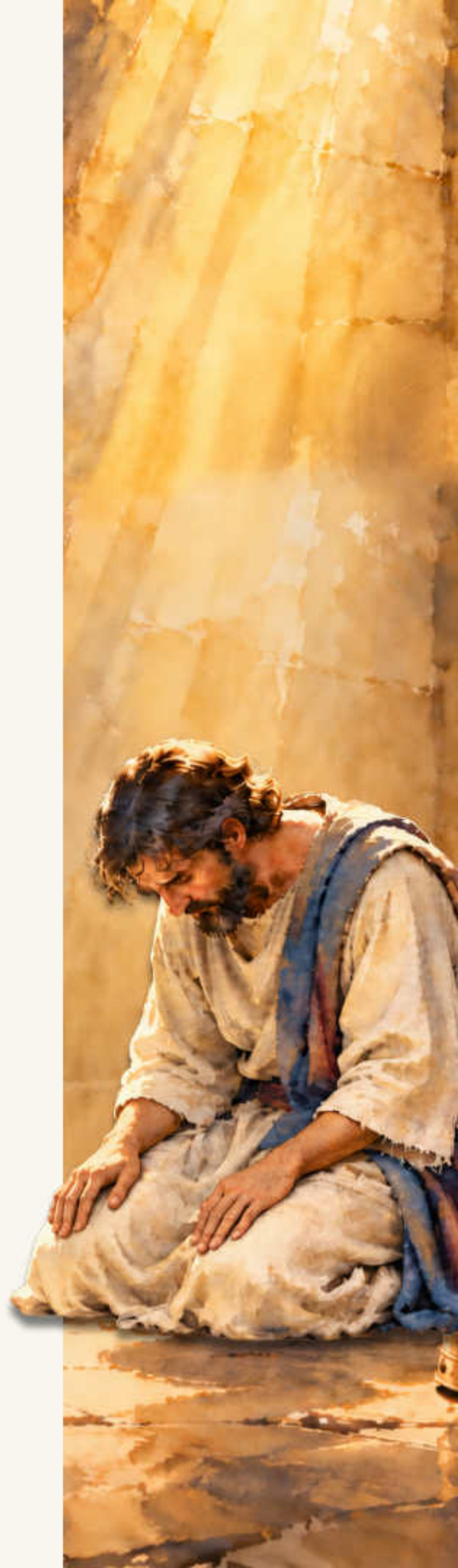
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5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

David is confessing that from the time of his birth, he has had this condition of a distorted and twisted heart (iniquity) that caused him to shun God's law and do what he saw right in his heart (the wrong standard). He is confessing not just guilt but the condition of iniquity,



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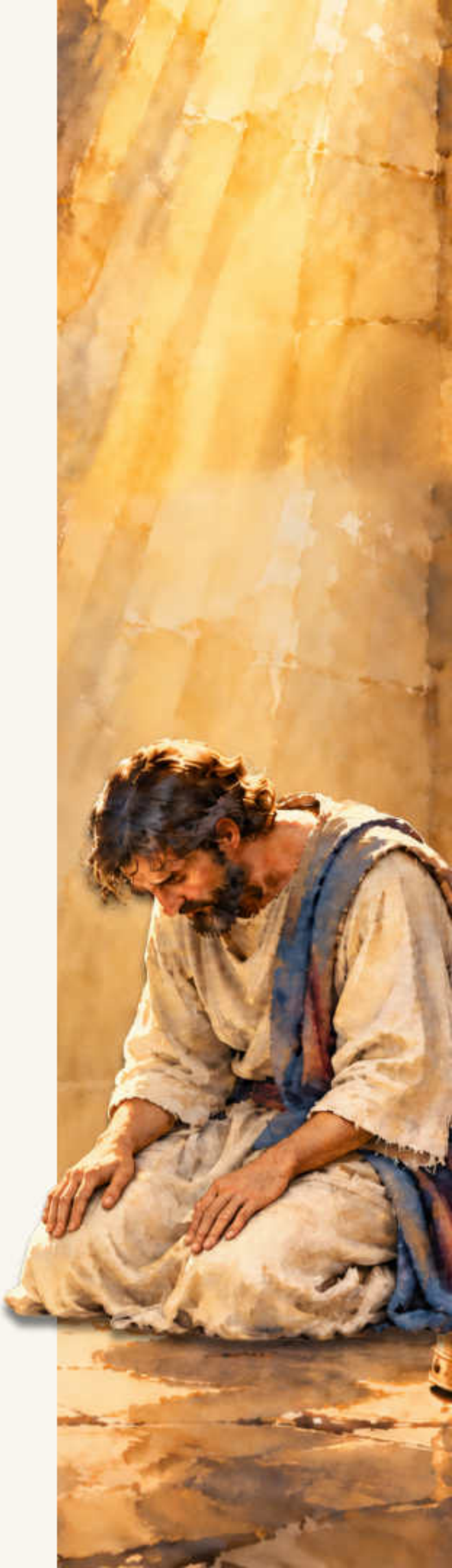
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6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

David asks God to change the heart from which his sin came.



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David asks God to change the heart from which his sin came. He is asking God to create something new out of the chaos and darkness of his iniquity.

The Answer to David's Prayer is the Gospel

Jesus did not come merely to forgive the bad things we have done; he came to make us new. The gospel is not that God wipes the slate clean and sends us back out to try harder. The gospel is that in Christ, God gives us a new heart, a new Spirit, a new life. What you cannot untwist, Christ can redeem. What you cannot cleanse, Christ can wash. What you cannot recreate, Christ can make new.



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*13 **Then** I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, (THEN) and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, (THEN) and my mouth will declare your praise.*

What David does is an outflow (response) to what God has done.

*16 For you **will not delight in sacrifice**, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; 19 then will you **delight in right sacrifices**, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.”*



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and renew a right spirit within me.

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- **Jesus alone met God's standard.**
- **Jesus alone has never broken faith** (Obedient to the Father).
- **Jesus's alone is good** (a heart that was never twisted).

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”



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The Nicene Creed (325 AD)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.