

**Psalm 51:1-2, “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.”**



This verse is uttered from the lips of a repentant contrite heart. Most likely the psalmist had experienced or was experiencing the punishment for his sins.

We always welcome God’s forgiveness when we do not receive the punishment we deserve. But what is our attitude when the iniquity must be cleansed with a punishment along with the forgiveness?

Many times we must bear our punishment in order to escape the clutches of a sin that keeps a strong hold upon us.

Whenever I hear myself saying, ‘I can’t take anymore’ or I simply feel as if I am under too heavy a weight, I remind myself who is in control. If God says I can take it, I can bear the weight of this punishment: I must remind myself that I can! I have to take off my pity shoes and put on my sneakers; get ready for the long haul.

The devil is out to convince me that I should be angry at God. This is no more than a test of my faith!

1 Corinthians 10:13, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

The verse in 1 Corinthians tells me that I am not alone. There are Christians in this world and all through time that have walked through much worse. The same God that helped them through it is the same God that helps me.

1 Chronicles 21:1, "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel,"

Have you ever thought about how Satan provokes you time and time again to sin against God? As I am writing this, I am reminded of my daily constant battle to keep my focus and not waste my precious time away on frivolous things of this world. It seems as if Satan never lets up. It also is discouraging at how many times I cave in to the temptation.

2 Samuel 24:10-14, "And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? Or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? Or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? Now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me. And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man."

When we continue to cave in to the temptation, God will continue to forgive, but just like a loving parent, He may also administer a punishment so severe that it helps us to resist future temptations.

(Been to the wood shed – Been there, done that and don't want to go there again!)

I personally have never heard a child thank their parents for punishing them. But I have heard many an adult thank their parents as they reflect upon the lifelong benefits of those punishments.