

THE MISERABLE CHRISTIAN

When David, the man after God's own heart, fell into sin it marked a most miserable time in his life. His testimony reflects this in both Psalm 32 and Psalm 51. Before he came to repentance, he says, "my bones grew weary through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer." (Ps. 32:3-4) It was a MISERABLE experience.

In Psalm 51, David explained that prior to confession, "my sin is always before me" (v. 3). Hounded by sin, the joy was gone. David cried out, "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation" (v. 12). Yes, David knew the Lord and loved the Lord and as an OT saint was privileged to have the Holy Spirit. And yes, as a believer, one may fall into sin (even gross sin), but the experience there is one of MISERY. There is no JOY there!

Peter sinned in denying the Lord three times. The third time the rooster crowed exactly as Christ said would happen and at that very moment "the Lord turned and looked at Peter" (Lk. 22:60-61). Immediately Peter remembered the word of the Lord and "went out and wept bitterly" (Lk. 22:61-62).

Where sin takes place in the believer's life conviction is sure to follow. A believer may sin, but they will not long enjoy it. There is no sinning on the part of the believer that is not accompanied by the grieving of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30). As believers our spirit is wed with God's Spirit and in that union we experience the grieving of the Spirit when we sin (cf. Rom. 8:16, 26-27; 1 Cor. 6:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3-4).

Walking in the joy of the Lord is equivalent to walking in the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit includes JOY. When the Spirit is grieved there is no joy – only MISERY!

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.