King David Sinned
Did He Lose His Salvation?

A common argument cited for eternal security goes like this:

“King David lost only the joy of his salvation by his adultery and murder. In Psa. 51:12 he only prayed to have the joy of his salvation restored. Also, he was a man after God’s own heart and wrote part of the Bible.”

So, when King David sinned with adultery and murder, did he really remain saved, as so many want us to believe? To say King David did not lose his salvation because of his sins of adultery and murder is to rebut Scripture (1 Cor. 6:9,10; Rev. 21:8; etc.) and at the same time, teach a license for immorality! Just because King David prayed to have the joy of his salvation restored doesn’t mean he did not previously lose his salvation, which according to the aforementioned verses, clearly occurred. NOTE: The context of Psalm 51 is after 2 Sam. 12:13 (where King David was declared forgiven). So after he was forgiven he wrote Psalm 51 and asked for the joy of his salvation to be restored! The context changes everything! Furthermore, Psalm 51:1 starts off with David’s prayer which is almost identical to the prayer in Luke 18:13, which brings justification. Moreover, since the Prodigal lost his salvation by sexual immorality (Lk. 15:24, 32), why would you think King David didn’t lose his salvation through his sexual immorality and murder?

By the way, even if King David did not lose his salvation from these sins, there might be a more grievous sin which could be committed. Therefore, eternal security cannot be proven from his prayer to have his joy restored after King David sinned!

Also, did you notice that King David believed the Holy Spirit could be taken from him (Psa. 51:11), which is the very thing that happened to King Saul (1 Sam. 16:14)? Apparently, from this alone, King David felt something far greater than just the joy of his salvation was clearly jeopardized by his sins!

Was King David a Bible-defined adulterer or murderer for approximately nine months or longer? To answer, we must consider how many times does one have to murder or commit adultery to be considered a murderer or adulterer, according to the Scriptures? Again, according to the Bible, what is the answer? Lev. 20:10 states:

If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.

Clearly from that Scripture, a one-time act of adultery makes a person an adulterer or an adulteress. But what about the identity of a mur-
In the book of Numbers, a murderer’s identity is revealed:

If a man strikes someone with an iron object so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall be put to death. Or if anyone has a stone in his hand that could kill, and he strikes someone so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall be put to death. Or if anyone has a wooden object in his hand that could kill, and he hits someone so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall be put to death (Num. 35:16-18).

As with the adulterer, a one-time act of murder makes the man a murderer, according to Scripture. There is no Scripture that states it would take two or five or twenty acts of adultery or murder before one is an adulterer or murderer! The definition of these words also fits the evidence in Lev. 20:10 and Num. 35:16-18 for a single act! Furthermore, regarding murder, 1 John 3:15 states:

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him (NKJV).

According to Scripture, when King David sinned in that way he became a murderer and therefore, he did not have eternal life abiding (remaining) in him any more. You don’t have to go any further than that. So, according to Scripture, when King David sinned he, therefore, lost much more than the joy of his salvation!

But there is even more. The Sovereign God, who knows all there is to know about salvation, grace, his own keeping power and faithfulness, spoke from his throne after the infinite and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross:

Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

This same phrase is used here and indicates spiritual leaders guiding people with godly knowledge and understanding. There is no fine print in Scripture that cites protection from the lake of fire for any writer of the Bible, King of Israel, man after God’s own heart, or any other kind of person who would become sexually immoral and/or a murderer. Scripture just plainly states such will end up in the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8). The only hope they have is to repent as the Prodigal did. Hence, don’t be deceived by any dangerous false teacher, including John R. Rice, “David Servant” or anyone else teaching a license to sin. King David sinned and lost his salvation and it didn’t take habitual, lifestyle or practice of sin to do that.