

## Reboot Your Life

Have you ever had that experience with your computer when it just would not do anything it was supposed to do? The screen is frozen and you are in danger of losing all of your work. 'Ugh!', or more colorful words, come out of your mouth. What is the one remedy that we eventually need to resort to when the computer is just resisting all other efforts? The one thing that your frozen, uncooperative computer will respond to is this : reboot. You need to go to the start button and you need to press restart. When you restart a computer what it does, or so I believe it does, is it wipes out all of the garbage that is standing in the way of that machine doing what it's supposed to do. Sometimes the only way to remove the trash inside, to free up the memory or whatever, is to reboot the thing.

Psalm 51 has a superscription that indicates the psalm was written by David when the Prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. This Psalm is about David trying to reboot his life after he committed adultery with Bathsheba and arranged for the murder of her husband, Uriah. You can read about it in 2 Samuel 11 and 12.

How does David approach God after he commits these horrible sins before God. He confesses his sin. In verse 5 David confesses that 'surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.' This is the equivalent of coming to that point in working with your computer where you say there is nothing left for me to do. I cannot make this thing work. It is just stuck. If you are feeling stuck in your life a good place to begin the process of becoming unstuck is to review whether there is anything it would be healthy for you to confess before God. God already knows, of course. Confession is not for God's sake, but for our own.

What David does next is call out to God to be cleansed so that he would become clean, to be washed whiter than snow. He wants the darkness of sin, the darkness of our Ash Wednesday Ashes to be washed away. Instead of the sorrow and the weeping and wailing that comes to a man who has committed horrible sins, he wants to hear joy and gladness. He says in verse 8 that he wants his bones which have been crushed instead to rejoice. He wants God to hide his face from those sins and to blot out his iniquity.

This is hitting the restart button. It is asking God, as he says in verse 10, to create a pure heart within him, to renew a steadfast spirit.

My friends, as we enter this season of Lent, we are all aware of death. All we need do is turn on any news any hour of the day and we are reminded of its devastation within our city our state our nation our world. I don't need to remind you that death is real, a real last enemy. Rather when the days and nights cast down our spirits, we place our hope in God rather than ourselves, rather than other human beings.

I invite you this Ash Wednesday to join me in asking God to take us out of the mess we find ourselves in. As you come to the Lord in prayer, ask God to help you find the courage to press 'restart'. Let God reboot your life this Lent. Then you will be able to find the joy of your salvation through Christ.

Amen.