***Psalm 51:15-17 O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise. 16For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart- These, O God, You will not despise.***

Our Revival meetings were great last week. The meetings have ended, but the spirit of Revival continues. If we listened, if we were attentive to the messages, music, and indeed the Spirit moving within, we recognize that we have much to be grateful for, much to seek God’s forgiveness over, and much work to do. We want to **become** more and more Christlike. As we come out of the Revival meetings, we must ask, “Where is my work needed and what change can I make to draw nearer to Jesus?”

Our scripture this week picks up in the same Psalm that we studied last week. Last week, we prayed – Create in me a clean heart, renew in me a steadfast spirit, restore to me the Joy of Your Salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. We believe that God graciously gives these very things. This week, we start with another request in verse 15 - *O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.* Open my mouth – This Psalm is written by David in a very dark time. Nathan the prophet has confronted him with his sin with Bathsheba and David has acknowledged his transgressions. He is beseeching God for forgiveness and asking God to blot out his iniquity and remember it no more. Open my mouth holds the idea of God opening David’s mouth after it has been closed by sin, shame, guilt, and humiliation. David says earlier, against You, meaning God, David has sinned and God only. So now, God only can open David’s mouth. Restore my communion with You. Draw me close to You, and allow me speak Your truth to all, oh God! *And my mouth shall show forth Your praise –* Though David’s sin is great, God’s Faithfulness and Promises are greater. Open my lips, forgive me, and I will praise in gratitude. My mouth will tell of Your excellent greatness with never ending praise.

May our hearts hold this same yearning for communion with God through Jesus. Guilt, shame, embarrassment can cause us, just as Adam and Eve in the garden, to hide, or at least kid ourselves into thinking we are hiding from God. When Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, they hid from His Presence. Why? They were guilty and ashamed. They had sinned. They had unclean hearts. In Genesis 3:9 God asks them what He asks of all of us, as we hide from His Presence - *Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”* May I ask you this morning? Where are you? Spiritually, in relationship to Christ? May God open our lips that we may no longer be ashamed and offer never ending praise to the King!

Verse 16 *For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering.* Psalm 40:6, Psalm 51:19 indicate that God does want sacrifice, but in the right order and with the right heart. No bulls, rams, goats, or birds, when the heart is out of alignment. Sin has but one wage and that is death. Romans 6:*23* ***For the wages of sin is death****, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*. David realized, as we realize, if we have not acknowledged our sin and sought forgiveness, any sacrifice, any burnt offering is like chaff after the wheat has been gathered. Matthew 3:12 describes Jesus, coming to baptize with the Holy Spirit *- His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather* ***His wheat into the barn****(*that which is valuable and His own*); but He will burn up the chaff (*that which is not his*) with unquenchable fire.* Unholy sacrifices made with wrong motives and an unclean heart go unblessed by a Holy God – what is blessed?

Verse 17 *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart- These, O God, You will not despise.* Not bull, ram, goat, or bird, but first and where it all must start – a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart. Repentance. A heart seeking reconciliation and reunion with God no matter the cost, deeply afflicted and grieved over the sin that has caused separation from Him. A heart aware of its need for divine grace and healing. When we seek forgiveness in Jesus’ name, with a repentant heart, soulfully sorrowful for the sin we committed, we find perfect forgiveness and reconciliation. *Hebrews 10:12 But this Man (*Jesus*), after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.* We know from Romans 8:34 one of Jesus’ actions at God’s right hand. It says - *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.* A broken spirit and a contrite heart – *These, O God, you will not despise*. Any parent can tell you – nothing will get your heart like a broken-hearted child. God will not ignore, fail to hear, or reject this sacrifice – because it is such an acceptable sacrifice, in Jesus.

This week, may we continue with the spirit of Revival, seeking God, through Jesus, with a broken spirit and contrite heart. John 6:40 tells us the perfect will of God - *And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day*. We don’t waste time on sacrificing the things of this world. We seek God, through Jesus, in true repentance and heartfelt belief. We sing praises to our Eternal Father for the Great things He hath done. Turn back and let Him loose the tongue sin has silenced and use it to praise Him forevermore. He’s calling “Where are you?” Will you be found?