

2012 Series “So Loved” (#03)
“Unfailing Love”

During the month of February, the theme of our studies is “So Loved.” The title was taken from (Jn.3:16). The Greek word for “**SO**” is houstos. Houstos is used as a demonstrative adverb, meaning “**in this way.**”

Listen to what Jesus said about God’s Plan for His life:

(Jn.3:16) “God so Loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (Jn.10:28)

There is no doubt that the historical crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a great demonstration of God’s love for sinners.

(Rom.5:8) “But God demonstrates His love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**”

Because of this demonstration of God’s love, Church Age Believers (CAB) often think that the **love of God**, spoken of in the New Testament is greater than that of the Old Testament. **However, our lesson text shows that the Unfailing Love of God was a major doctrine in both the NT and OT because it is part of the character of God (1 Jn.4:8).**

This lesson will study five aspects of God’s Unfailing Love towards sinful believers.

1. The background of Ps.51 is David’s Bathsheba-Uriah sin incident (2 Sam.11-12).

It is interesting that David did not realize the sinfulness of his behavior until confronted by the prophet Nathan. In (2 Sam.12:1-9), Nathan’s parable of the poor man’s lamb (2 Sam.12:7-12) and saying in conclusion to David “You are the man!” David responded with confession of his sin in (2 Sam.12:13a) “I have sinned against the Lord.” (1 Jn.1:9)

Nathan told David because he had confessed his sin; God would remove the **sin unto death** from him (2 Sam.12:13b; **1 Jn.5:16**).

2. Many believe that David began writing about God’s “Unfailing Love” a year after the Bathsheba sin incident (Ps.51).

He wrote of and from being overwhelmed by experiencing God’s “Unfailing Love” (**Ps.32:1-5**). Nearly every reference to God’s “Unfailing Love” in the Book of Psalms was written or influenced by David.

- Ps.51 was taken from the second division of Psalms (chs.42-72). David wrote 18 of them.
- Ps.51 is 1 of 7 Penitence Psalms (Ps.51:6, **32**, 38, **51**, 102, 130, and 143). Who do you think wrote these?
- Ps.51:1-2 has four imperatives (1 Cor.6:11).
 - Be gracious (chanah /kal) Unfailing love and compassion
 - Blot out (machah / kal) Transgression
 - Wash me (kabas / piel) Iniquity
 - Cleanses me (taher / piel) Sin

3. David described his experience with God's Unfailing Love by the Hebrew word chesed

David learned that personal sin does not change the character of God as it does man's. He learned that it did not change God's "Unfailing Love" (**chesed**) towards the sinful believer, only how He deals with his sin (Heb.12:5-11).

(Ps.86:5) "For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in Unfailing Love (chesed) to all who call upon You." [David]

The word **Chesed** is used some 250 times in the OT. It is translated into our bible using four different words.

- Loving kindness NAS and KJ
- Unfailing Love NIV
- Steadfast Love Amplified and RSV.
- Loyal Love NET

All of these translations are correct. It depends on the emphasis of the context of usage.

4. One important aspect of chesed is that it is always linked to a divine covenant associated with God's redemption (Ps.130:7). **Covenant relationship keeps it from becoming sentimentality.**

It was used with the **Sinai Covenant**

(Deut.7:9,12) "Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His **unfailing love** (chesed) to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments."

It was used in the **David Covenant**

(2 Sam.7:12-16) "But My **unfailing love** shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

(2 Sam.7:15) God promised the Davidic throne to His Only Begotten Son (2 Sam.7:16; Isa.9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33).

Question: Why did David plead with God not to remove His Spirit (Ps.51:11) when he had been promised that God wouldn't in (2 Sam.7: 15)? Why do we not believe God and His promises made to us?

5. This is how reversionism affects processing doctrine in the soul.

(Heb.5:11) "Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing (scar tissue on the soul)." (1 Sam.24:5-6)

In the Old Testament (OC), removing the Holy Spirit was connected **with service** not salvation (1 Sam.16:7, 13-14).

This will never happen to CABs because **Holy Spirit is part of salvation** – "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another helper that He may be with you forever." (John 14:16; 3:16; 7:38-39; Titus 3:4-7).

There isn't one Greek word equivalent to **chesed**. In the Septuagint (Ps.51), it was translated as **eleos** (mercy). **David sought mercy but received God's "Unfailing Love"** (chesed) (Heb.12:5-11).

SO LOVED BENEDICTION:

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for **His Unfailing Love** (chesed) **is everlasting**." (Ps.107:1)