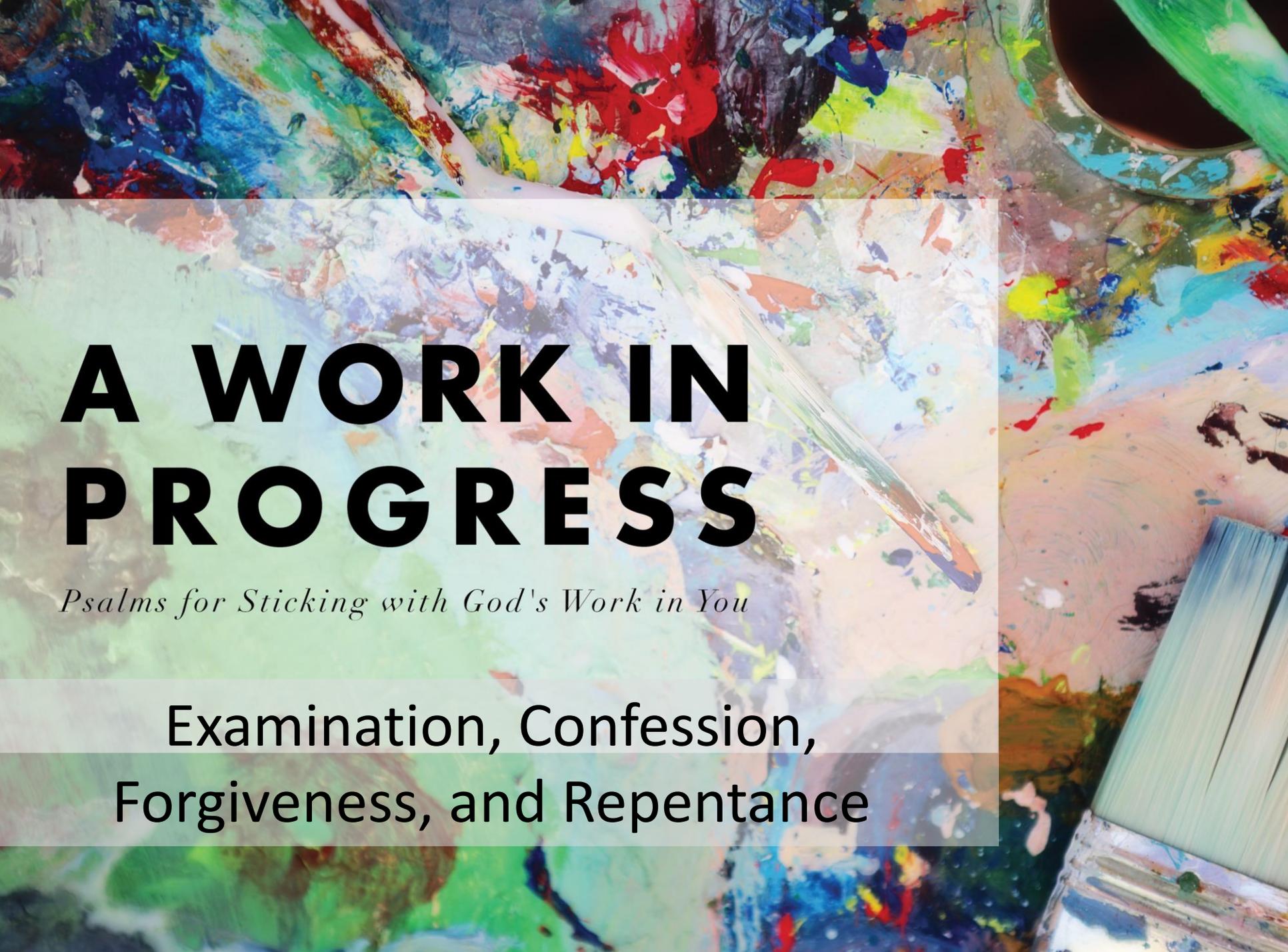




A WORK IN PROGRESS

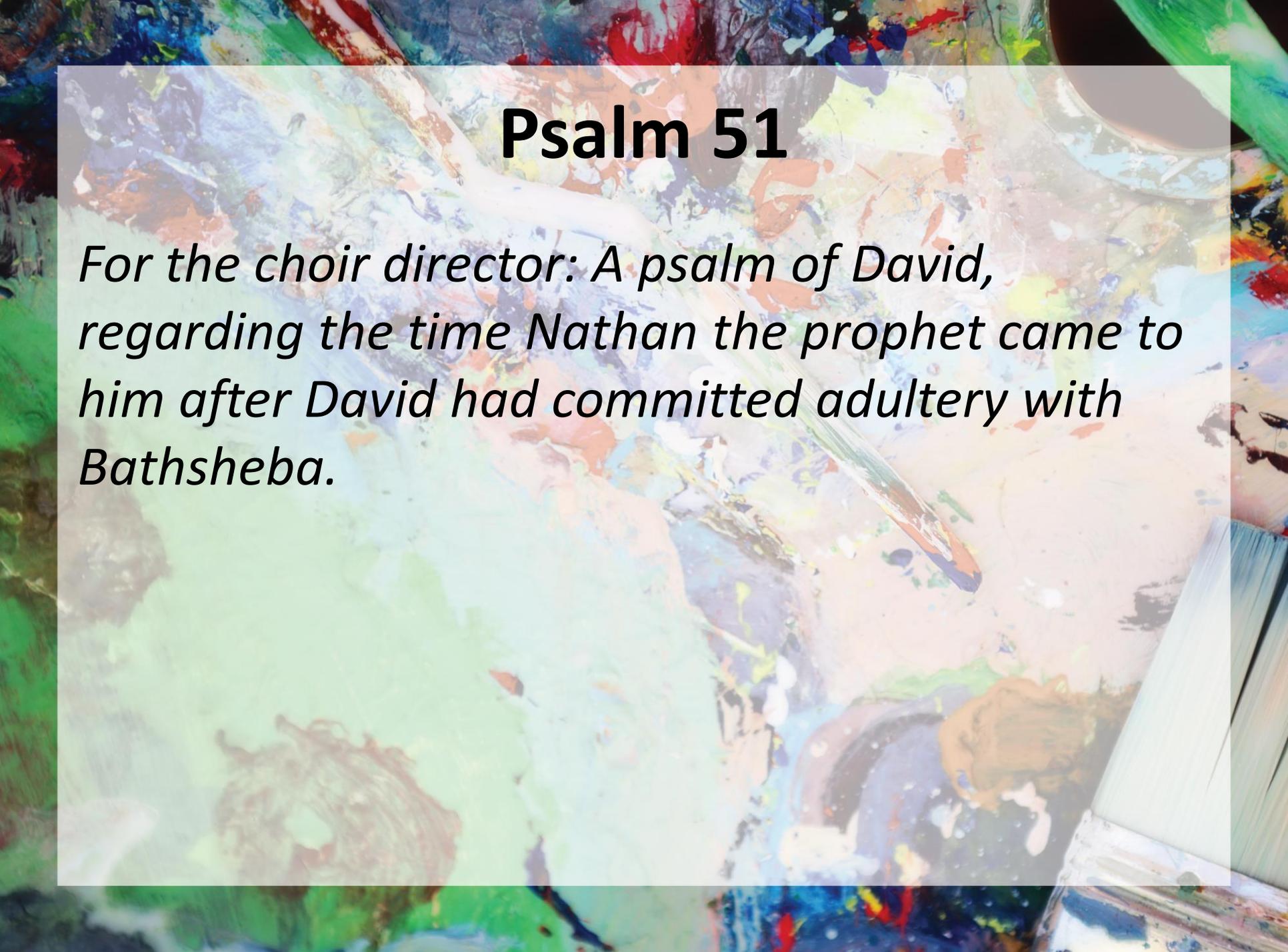
Psalms for Sticking with God's Work in You



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Psalms for Sticking with God's Work in You

Examination, Confession,
Forgiveness, and Repentance



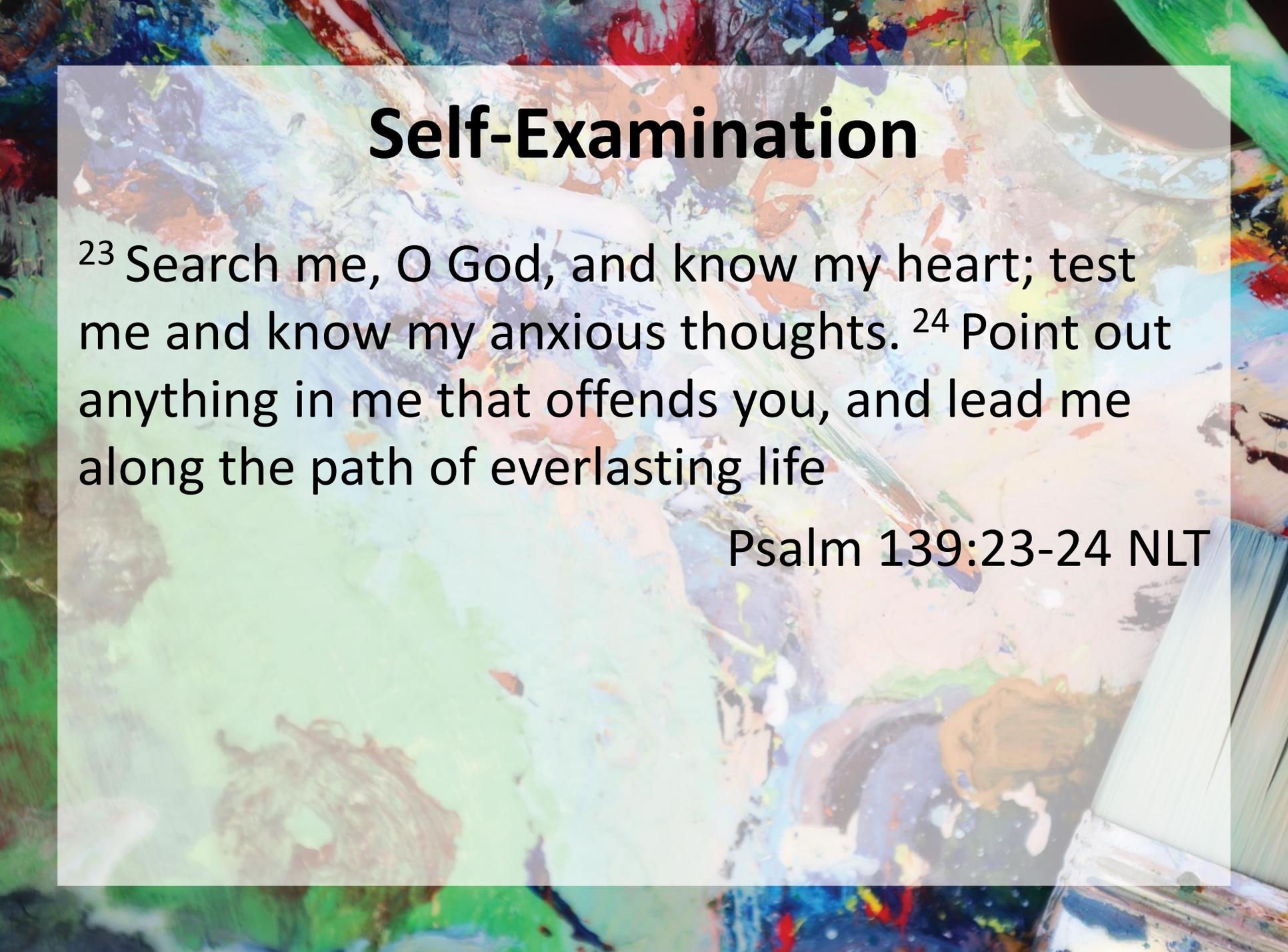
Psalm 51

For the choir director: A psalm of David, regarding the time Nathan the prophet came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

Story of David, Bathsheba, Uriah, and Nathan

(2 Samuel, Chapters 11-12)

- David's choices set the stage for his sins
- David entertained temptation
- David abused his power
- David schemed to cover up
- David doubled down on his sin
- God sent Nathan
- David judged
- Nathan sprang the trap
- David was caught
- David confessed
- David suffered life-long consequences



Self-Examination

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life

Psalm 139:23-24 NLT

The background of the image is a colorful, abstract painting. It features a palette with various colors of paint (red, blue, green, yellow, white) and several brushes. The painting itself is a mix of these colors, with some areas being more saturated and others more muted. The overall style is expressive and textured.

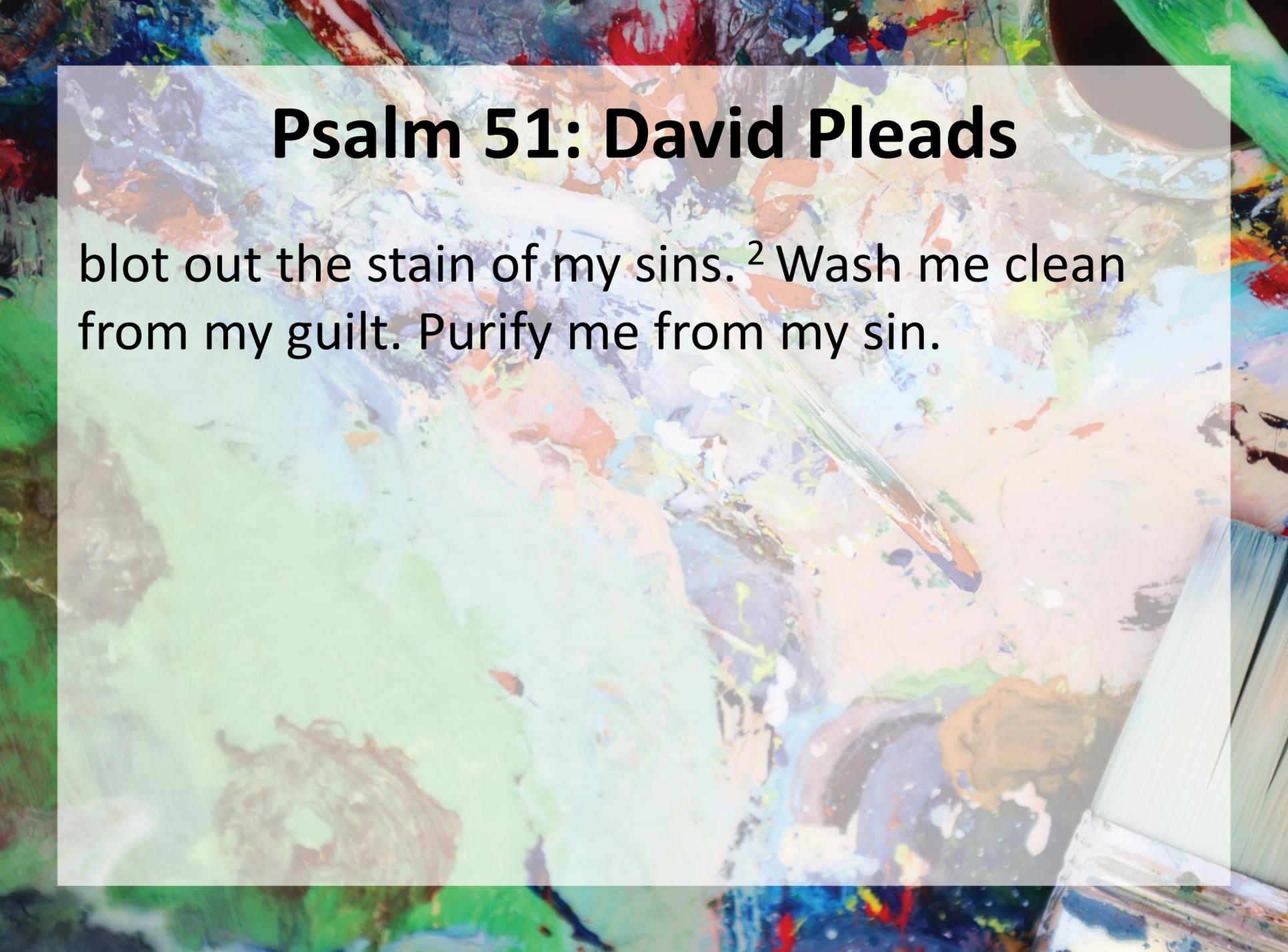
Psalm 51:David Approaches God

¹Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion

God Defines Himself

Then the LORD came down in a cloud and stood there with him; and he called out his own name, Yahweh. ⁶ The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. ⁷ I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin."

(Exodus 34:5-7a NLT)

The background of the image is a rich, abstract painting. It features a variety of colors including red, blue, green, yellow, and white, applied in thick, expressive brushstrokes. In the upper right corner, a portion of a white artist's palette and the bristles of a paintbrush are visible, suggesting an active painting process. The overall composition is dynamic and textured.

Psalm 51: David Pleads

blot out the stain of my sins. ² Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

Psalm 51: David Confesses

³ For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. ⁵ For I was born a sinner-- yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. ⁶ But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.

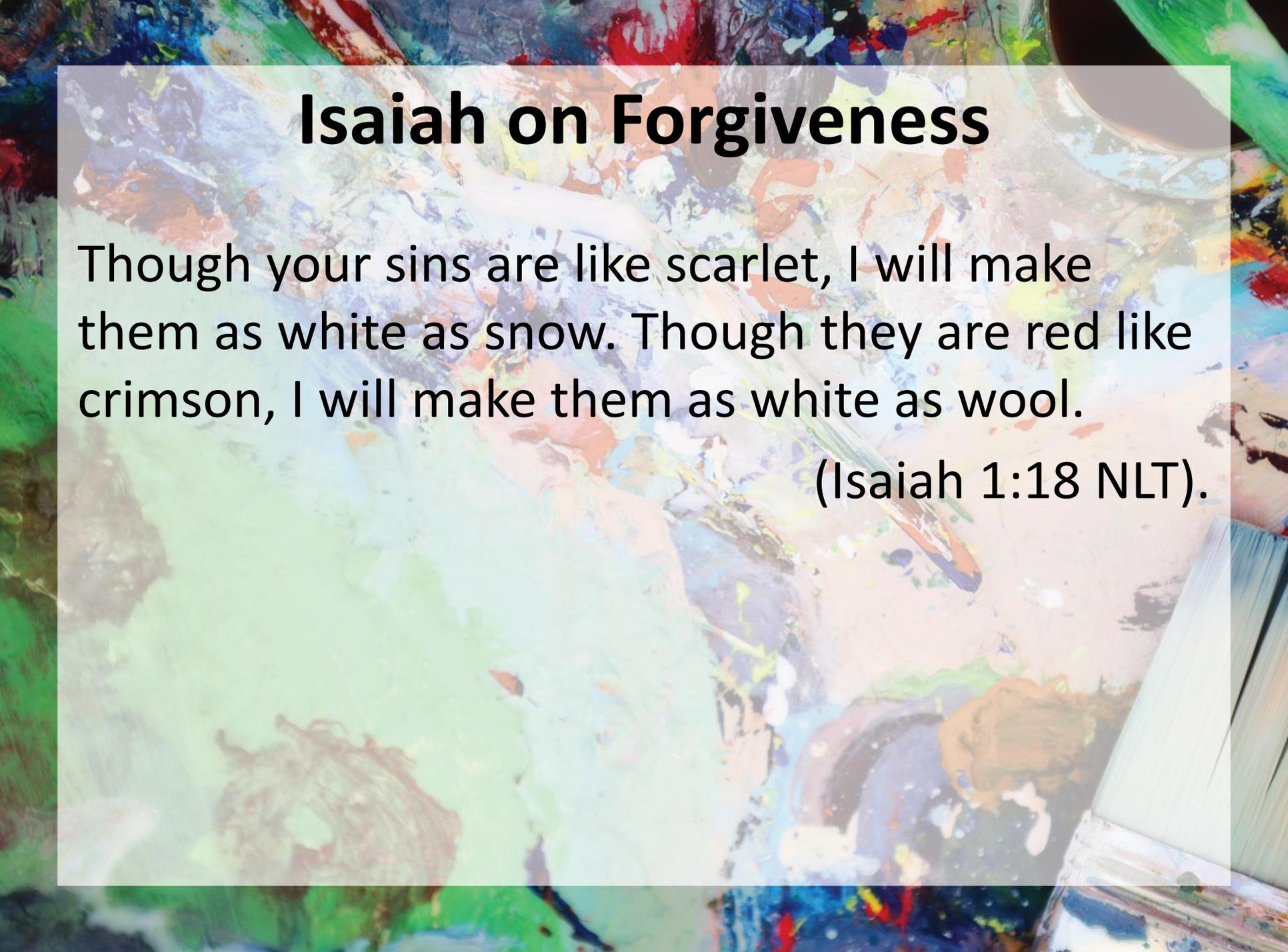
Psalm 51:David Seeks Forgiveness

⁷ Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me - now let me rejoice. ⁹ Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

The Apostle John on Forgiveness

But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

(1 John 1:7-9 NLT)



Isaiah on Forgiveness

Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.

(Isaiah 1:18 NLT).

Psalm 51:David Seeks Forgiveness

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Psalm 51: David Repents

¹³ Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. ¹⁴ Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. ¹⁵ Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you. ¹⁶ You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God. ¹⁸ Look with favor on Zion and help her; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then you will be pleased with sacrifices offered in the right spirit-- with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings. Then bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.

Repentance

- *Metanoia*: literally *a change of mind*.
- “the change of mind of those who have begun to abhor their errors and misdeeds, and have determined to enter upon a better course of life, so that it embraces both a recognition of sin and sorrow for it and hearty amendment, the tokens and effects of which are good deeds”

Thayer's Greek Lexicon, s.v. metanoia

Psalm 51: David Repents

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We Repent

- We come to hate our selfishness, cruelty, and damage
- We understand that our pride, laziness, and self-centeredness cause our sin
- We choose to make the necessary changes, with God's help

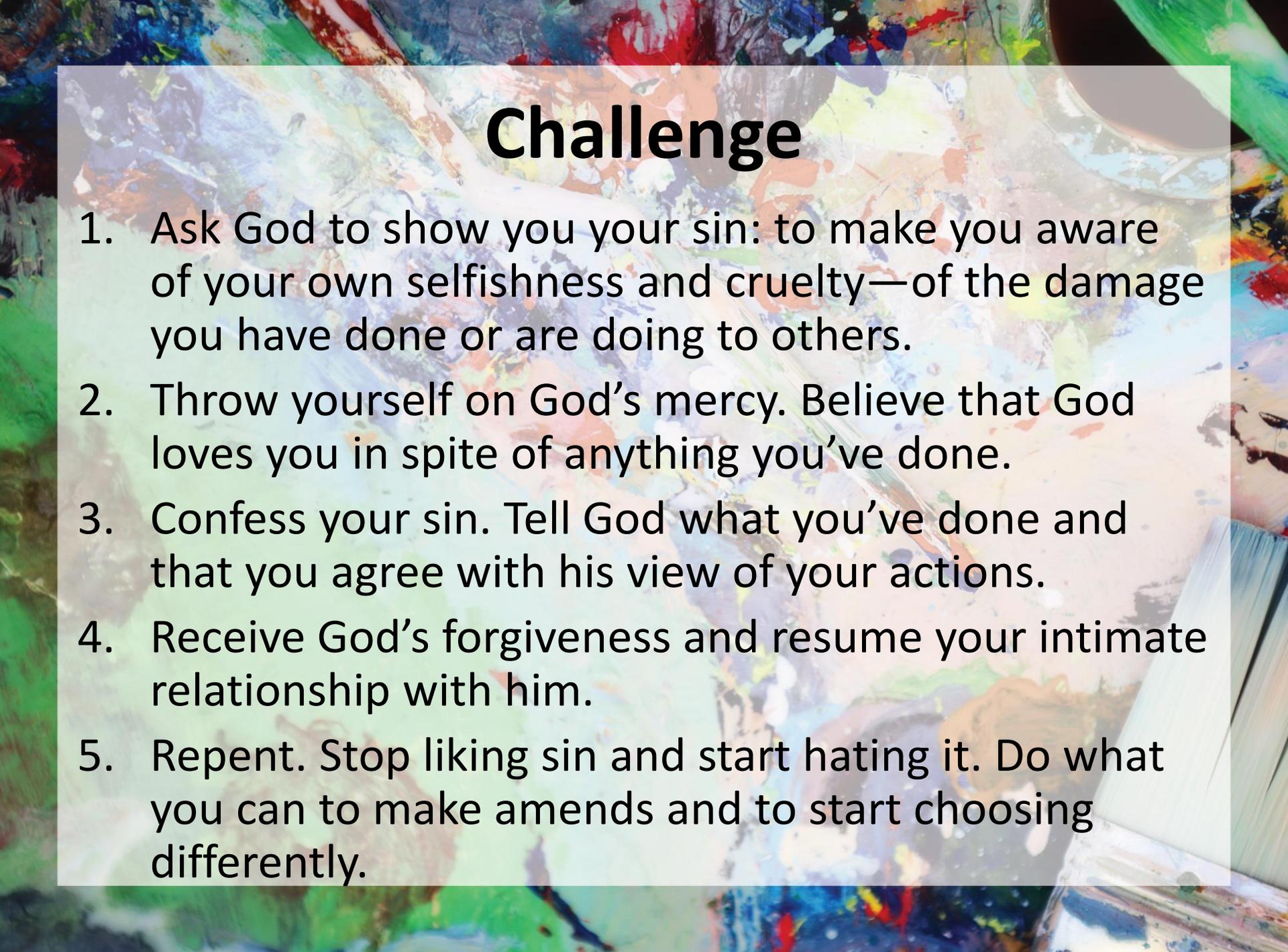
We Are Works in Progress

- We will sin
- “If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.” (1 John 1:8)
- “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” (1 John 1:9)



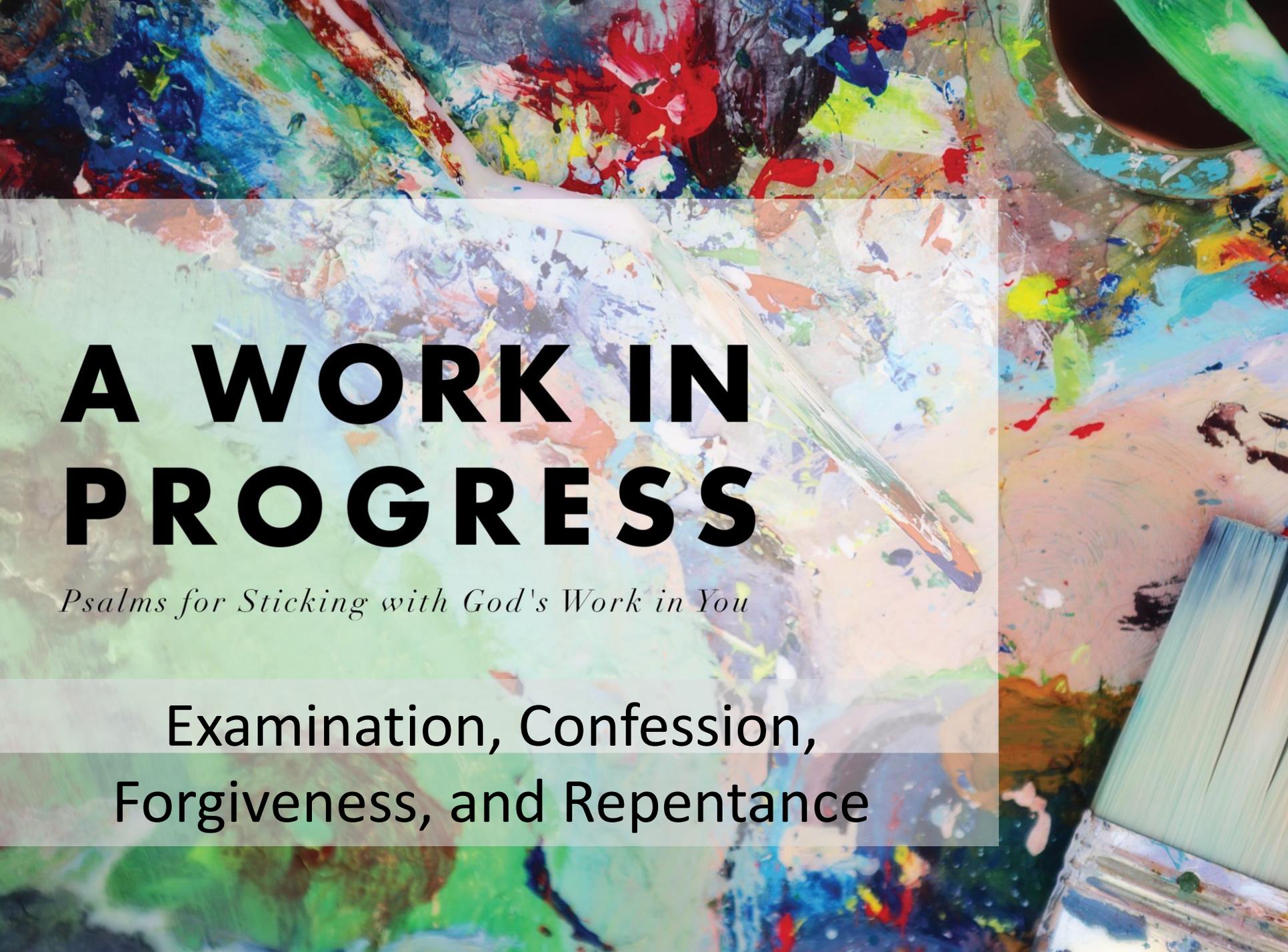
Jesus Gives Us Freedom

- Self-Examination
- Surrender to Mercy
- Confession
- Forgiveness and Restoration of Relationship
- Repentance



Challenge

1. Ask God to show you your sin: to make you aware of your own selfishness and cruelty—of the damage you have done or are doing to others.
2. Throw yourself on God's mercy. Believe that God loves you in spite of anything you've done.
3. Confess your sin. Tell God what you've done and that you agree with his view of your actions.
4. Receive God's forgiveness and resume your intimate relationship with him.
5. Repent. Stop liking sin and start hating it. Do what you can to make amends and to start choosing differently.



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