

BIRDBATH ON A WIRE

I love to sit out in our sunroom early in the morning. It's cool, calm, and refreshing. My favorite of all mornings is when it's raining. Even the lightest rain is pleasantly amplified as it hits the top of the roof of the sunroom.

One recent morning as the rain was pouring down, I had just settled in to enjoy my morning coffee and the peaceful atmosphere of the sunroom when I saw the strangest sight. Now, mind you, I didn't have my glasses on, so I was seeing more in the realm of ND (no definition) than HD (high definition)! When I looked out, there was a completely unidentifiable black silhouette on the telephone wire behind the house next door! It looked like a bird, but had a long point on the top of it. I had never seen anything like it! I dashed into the house, grabbed my glasses, and flew back out to the curious setting hoping whatever it was, was still there!

With a manifestly clearer view, I could see that it was a bird! He was perched on the telephone wire in the rain, stretching both of his wings straight up toward heaven. He held them there; silent, determined, and motionless as the rain washed under his wings and over his little bird-body. He was taking full advantage of his God-given birdbath! I had heard of "bird on a wire," but "birdbath on a wire!" Who knew! Sure beats having to do all the work your own bird-self in a puddle!



I am reminded of Psalm 51, written by King David. Here he was, "a man after God's own heart," but still a man who committed grievous sin. What shows that he was a man after God's own heart was not that he lived a perfect life, but that he knew where to go and what to do with his imperfect life. He knew what to do with his sin and his guilt. He (after a little persuasion from the prophet Nathan) ran to God in humility. He ran to God in repentance. He could suffer the brokenness no longer.

In Psalm 51:7 David cries, "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." David knew that God, and God alone, could make him clean from his sin. It was his holy and righteous God whom he had infinitely offended with his sin and it was only his holy and righteous God who had the grace to make him clean.

That very same God who washed King David is the God who sends the rain to wash a bird on a wire. It is that same God who sent his Son to die on a cross so that we might be made truly clean. Only He can make us whiter than snow. Let confession and repentance lift your wings to heaven and bask in the cleansing rain of God's grace through His Son, Jesus Christ.