

# FORGIVE ME

*Psalm 51*

## *I. The Psalmist Needed Help*

**A. David knew he was a guilty sinner and he wanted God to deal with him according to God's mercy rather than anything he himself had to offer.** "To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. ***Have mercy upon me***, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies ***blot out my transgressions.***" (PSALM 51:1)

**B. David believed that God could cleanse him even from sin; people who do not have such confidence in God despair.** "***Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity***, and cleanse me from my sin." (PSALM 51:2)

**C. David freely admitted his guilt and took it seriously.** "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me." (PSALM 51:3)

**D. Ultimately, sin is always against God primarily; sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.** "***Against thee, thee only, have I sinned***, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest." (PSALM 51:4)

**E. Sin is inherent in human nature in all generations.** "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." (PSALM 51:5) "And you *hath* be quickened, who were ***dead in trespasses and sins;***" (EPHESIANS 2:1)

## *II. Renewal Follows Confession*

**A. God can supply that total transformation which cleans a person from the inside.** "Behold, ***thou desirest truth in the inward parts:*** and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom. ***Purge me*** with hyssop, and ***I shall be clean:*** wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." (PSALM 51:6-7)

**B. The punishment and the scrubbing are worth the pain when the result is a genuinely clear conscience.** "***Make me to hear joy*** and gladness; *that* the ***bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.***" (PSALM 51:8) "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him.*" (PSALM 126:5-6)

**C. David asked to have all of his sins cleared away from him; only a confident believer would risk bringing such sin to God's attention.** "Hide thy face from my sins, and ***blot out all mine iniquities.***" (PSALM 51:9)

## *III. With Renewal Comes Rededication*

A. God can give a sinner a new heart and a new spirit. “*Create in me a clean heart*, O God; and *renew a right spirit* within me.” (PSALM 51:10) “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature*: old things are passed away; behold, *all things are become new*.” (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17)

B. God does not treat people as disposable consumer products. “Cast me not away from thy presence; and *take not thy holy spirit from me*.” (PSALM 51:11) “But *the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you*.” (JOHN 14:26)

C. When God restores, the redeemed break out in testimonies of grace. “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and *uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted* unto thee.” (PSALM 51:12-13) “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: *and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you* with meekness and fear.” (1 PETER 3:15)

D. The power of the transformed life demonstrates itself in the attitudes of changed hearts. “For *thou desirest not sacrifice*; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: *a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise*.” (PSALM 51:16-17)

#### ***IV. With Rededication Comes New Direction***

A. When sinners get beyond themselves, they become interested in the advancement of the entire redeemed community. “*Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion*: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.” (PSALM 51:18) “*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee*. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions’ sakes, I will now say, Peace *be* within thee. *Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good*.” (PSALM 122:6-9)

B. When a believer starts moving in the right direction, the speed of new life and new productivity begins to increase as well. “*Then shalt thou be pleased* with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.” (PSALM 51:19) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that *ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service*.” (ROMANS 12:1)