

Psalm 51: 1-4, 10-13

Create in me a clean heart, O God!!

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. . . . Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then will I teach transgressors your ways, and sinner’s will turn back to you.”

[A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet confronted him about his sin with Bathsheba. It is a model of response in humility for one who has fallen short of God’s standard. To summarize: “Have mercy, wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from sin, create in me a pure heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not throw me away, but rather, restore the joy of your salvation.”

[Return to website](#)

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