

# Psalm 51



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<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 51:1** *To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.* Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

<sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

<sup>18</sup> Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

<sup>19</sup> then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar. (Ps. 51:1 ESV)

## Psalm 51 - STUDY QUESTIONS

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Why does David ask for mercy? What do you think that means for God to have mercy on you and your sin?

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<sup>3</sup> For **I know my transgressions**, and **my sin is ever before me**.

David was very aware of his sin. What do you think you need to do to be more aware of sin in your life?

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<sup>4</sup> **Against you, you only, have I sinned** and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

David sinned against Bathsheeba, Uriah (her husband), the Israelite Army, and the nation. Why do you think he says “against You (GOD) and you ONLY have I sinned”?

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<sup>10</sup> Create in me a **clean heart**, O God, and **renew a right spirit** within me.

What do you think a “clean heart” and a “right spirit” mean?

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<sup>11</sup> **Cast me not away** from your presence, and **take not your Holy Spirit** from me.

Though God would never cast us away or take his Holy Spirit from us, David is obviously fearful of ANY possibility of not having nearness to God. What do you think the “presence of God is” and how would you feel about losing that?

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<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the **joy of your salvation**, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Why does David talk about the “joy of his salvation?” ... what do you think that means?

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<sup>13</sup> Then **I will teach transgressors** your ways, and **sinner will return** to you.

It seems that David plans to tell others about the greatness of God because of His forgiveness. Why would being forgiven of sin make one want to help others turn from sin?

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<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and **my tongue will sing aloud** of your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will **declare your praise**.

Verses 14-15 both talk about praising God for forgiveness. Why is this a natural result of God's mercy and forgiveness?

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<sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

One of the most insightful parts of this Psalm is how David recognizes that it's not about what we do to prove our repentance as much as it is about how we believe. God will NOT despise a "broken and a contrite heart." Why do you think that matters to God?

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**WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY LESSONS YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM PSALM 51?**

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**WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY CHANGES YOU NEED TO MAKE IN YOUR THINKING AND ACTIONS BASED ON PSALM 51?**

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