

**TEACH US  TO PRAY**

# TEACH US TO PRAY - WEEK 5

## Psalm 51:10 (NKJV)

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."*

David wrote Psalm 51 after the prophet \_\_\_\_\_ confronted him about his adultery with \_\_\_\_\_ and the murder of her husband \_\_\_\_\_.

This is the prayer of \_\_\_\_\_.

The prayer of honest \_\_\_\_\_.

The prayer that doesn't make excuses or shift blame but looks God in the eye and says, "I blew it.

Have \_\_\_\_\_ on me."

That kind of honesty is the doorway to real \_\_\_\_\_.

If you feel far from God right now — this prayer is your

\_\_\_\_\_.

## 1. "HAVE MERCY ON ME" — START WITH MERCY, NOT MERIT (vv. 1–2)

David doesn't start by listing his good works.

He starts with one word: \_\_\_\_\_.

This is the foundation of repentance — not our \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_.

You can't \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness.

You can only \_\_\_\_\_ it.

And the way you receive it is by coming to God with nothing in your hands except \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Psalm 51:1–2 (NKJV)**

*"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin."*

### **Lamentations 3:22–23 (NKJV)**

*"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."*

### **Ephesians 2:4–5 (NLT)**

*"But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead."*

## **2. "I KNOW MY TRANSGRESSIONS" – OWN IT WITHOUT EXCUSES (vv. 3–4)**

David doesn't blame, He takes full \_\_\_\_\_.

This is the hardest part of repentance looking in the mirror and saying: That was me. I did that.

Not I made a \_\_\_\_\_ or I was going through a hard time. Own it. "I \_\_\_\_\_."

Until you own it, you can't be \_\_\_\_\_ from it.

\_\_\_\_\_ keep you in bondage.

\_\_\_\_\_ opens the cell door.

### **Psalm 51:3–4 (NKJV)**

*"For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight."*

### **1 John 1:9 (NKJV)**

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

### **Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)**

*"People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy."*

### **3. "CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART" — ASK FOR RENOVATION, NOT JUST FORGIVENESS (vv. 10–12)**

David doesn't just ask to be forgiven, he asks to be \_\_\_\_\_.

The word "create" in Hebrew is \_\_\_\_\_ — the same word used in \_\_\_\_\_ when God created the heavens and the earth.

David isn't asking for a \_\_\_\_\_.  
He's asking for a brand \_\_\_\_\_ heart.  
Only \_\_\_\_\_ can do that.

\_\_\_\_\_ deals with what you've \_\_\_\_\_.

A \_\_\_\_\_ deals with who you \_\_\_\_\_.

God, don't just \_\_\_\_\_ me. \_\_\_\_\_ me.

### **Psalm 51:10–12 (NKJV)**

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit."*

### **Ezekiel 36:26 (NKJV)**

*"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."*

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)**

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*

## **4. "RESTORE THE JOY" – REPENTANCE LEADS TO RESTORATION (vv. 12–13)**

Sin doesn't remove your \_\_\_\_\_,  
but it steals your \_\_\_\_\_.

It \_\_\_\_\_ the song. It \_\_\_\_\_ the light.

David knew that a restored heart leads to a restored  
\_\_\_\_\_:

*"Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
and sinners shall be converted to You."*

When God gets you right,  
you become someone who can help get \_\_\_\_\_ right.

Your \_\_\_\_\_ becomes your \_\_\_\_\_.

Your \_\_\_\_\_ becomes your \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Psalm 51:12–13 (NKJV)**

*"Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You."*

### **Nehemiah 8:10 (NKJV)**

*"Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*

### **Romans 8:28 (NLT)**

*"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose."*

## **5. "A BROKEN SPIRIT" – GOD'S FAVORITE OFFERING (v. 17)**

God doesn't want your \_\_\_\_\_.

He doesn't want your religious \_\_\_\_\_.

He wants your \_\_\_\_\_.

He wants your \_\_\_\_\_.

Because brokenness before God isn't \_\_\_\_\_  
it's the most \_\_\_\_\_ posture a human being can take.

When you come to God broken,  
you come with \_\_\_\_\_ hands.

And \_\_\_\_\_ hands are the only kind God can fill.

And in that \_\_\_\_\_ place, God does His \_\_\_\_\_  
work.

**Psalm 51:17 (NKJV)**

*"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — these, O God, You will not despise."*

**Isaiah 57:15 (NKJV)**

*"For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'"*

**Psalm 34:18 (NKJV)**

*"The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit."*

**2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)**

*"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.'"*

# **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. How comfortable are you with honest confession before God? Do you tend to minimize your sin or own it fully?**
- 2. What's the difference between asking for forgiveness and asking for a "clean heart"?**
- 3. Has sin ever stolen your joy even though it didn't remove your salvation? What did that season feel like?**
- 4. What does it mean to you that God doesn't despise a broken heart — that brokenness is the offering He actually wants?**
- 5. Is there something you need to bring to God right now — honestly, without excuses — using Psalm 51 as your guide?**

# SCRIPTURE REFERENCE LIST

- Psalm 51:1-2** — Have mercy — blot out my transgressions
- Psalm 51:3-4** — I acknowledge my sin — against You only
- Psalm 51:10-12** — Create in me a clean heart — restore the joy
- Psalm 51:12-13** — Restored joy leads to restored mission
- Psalm 51:17** — A broken spirit — God's favorite offering
- Lamentations 3:22-23** — New mercies every morning
- Ephesians 2:4-5** — Rich in mercy — alive in Christ
- 1 John 1:9** — Confess — He is faithful to forgive and cleanse
- Proverbs 28:13** — Confess and turn — receive mercy
- Ezekiel 36:26** — A new heart and a new spirit
- 2 Corinthians 5:17** — New creation — old things passed away
- Nehemiah 8:10** — The joy of the Lord is your strength
- Romans 8:28** — All things work together for good
- Isaiah 57:15** — God dwells with the contrite and humble
- Psalm 34:18** — The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
- 2 Corinthians 12:9** — My strength is made perfect in weakness
- Psalm 139:23-24** — Search me, O God, and know my heart
- Romans 3:23** — All have sinned and fall short
- Hebrews 4:16** — Come boldly to the throne of grace
- James 4:8** — Draw near to God — He draws near to you

# COMMENTARY

## **Jack Hayford**

Hayford calls Psalm 51 the ultimate prayer of spiritual recovery. He teaches that David's use of *bara* reveals a theology of grace — only God creates from nothing, and that's exactly what a repentant heart needs: not renovation but resurrection. Hayford emphasizes that repentance is not just sorrow for sin but a turning of the whole person toward God. He also notes that David's plea, "Do not take Your Holy Spirit from me" (v. 11), reflects the Old Covenant reality where the Spirit's presence could be withdrawn — a sobering reminder that intimacy with God is a gift to be cherished, not assumed.

## **Jimmy Swaggart**

Swaggart teaches that Psalm 51 is the model for every believer who has fallen. He stresses that David's honesty — "against You, You only, have I sinned" — reveals that all sin is ultimately against God, regardless of who else it affects. Swaggart adds that the broken and contrite heart of verse 17 is not a one-time posture but a lifestyle — a daily willingness to stand before God stripped of pretense. He challenges believers to use Psalm 51 not just when they've failed dramatically, but as a regular prayer of spiritual maintenance and humility.

## **Matthew Henry**

Henry writes that Psalm 51 is David's penitential masterpiece and notes that David appeals to three attributes of God: lovingkindness, tender mercies, and abundant mercy. Henry observes that the broken and contrite heart (v. 17) is called a "sacrifice" because it costs something — it costs our pride. And that, Henry concludes, is the sacrifice God accepts above all others. He further notes that the progression from confession (vv. 1–4) to transformation (vv. 10–12) to mission (v. 13) reveals God's design for repentance: it's never meant to end in guilt. It's meant to end in purpose.

# SOAP — PSALM 51:10

*For Deeper Personal Study*

## S — SCRIPTURE

### Psalm 51:10 (NKJV)

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."*

## O — OBSERVATION

"Create" — bara — is the word for something only God can do. David doesn't ask for a repaired heart. He asks for a new one. "Steadfast" means unmovable, firm, established. David wants a spirit that doesn't waver when temptation comes again. He's not just dealing with yesterday's sin — he's preparing for tomorrow's faithfulness.

## A — APPLICATION

Pray through Psalm 51 this week as a daily prayer. Read it out loud. Personalize each verse. Where David says "my transgressions," name yours. Where he says "create in me a clean heart," tell God specifically what you need Him to change. Use this psalm as your own prayer of repentance and renewal.

## P — PRAYER

*God, have mercy on me. Not because I deserve it — because You are merciful. I'm not going to hide anymore. I know my sin. I own it. Against You I have sinned. Wash me. Cleanse me. And then do what only You can do — create something new in me. A clean heart. A right spirit. A steadfast soul. Restore the joy I've been missing. And use my brokenness to help someone else find You. The only offering I have is a broken heart. Take it. It's Yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# ANSWER KEY

*Answers in order of appearance:*

1. Nathan
2. Bathsheba, Uriah
3. repentance
4. confession
5. mercy
6. restoration
7. way back
8. mercy
9. goodness, God's
10. earn, receive
11. honesty
12. ownership
13. mistake
14. sinned
15. freed
16. Excuses, Confession
17. changed
18. bara
19. Genesis 1:1
20. tune-up, new
21. God
22. Forgiveness, done
23. clean heart, are
24. pardon, Renovate
25. salvation
26. joy
27. mutes, dims
28. mission
29. others
30. mess, message
31. test, testimony
32. performance
33. rituals
34. honesty, brokenness
35. weakness
36. powerful
37. empty
38. empty
39. raw, best