

Psalms 51

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Psalms 51

I was wrong, I'm sorry

Psalm 51

This poem has also become one of the favorite poems of believers throughout the ages, because in this poem, each of us can see our own shadow and think of our inner struggles. At the same time, we understand that how David was forgiven by God can be forgiven by God as well. "As much as you know God, you love Him." Our deepest knowledge of God as Christians often lies in the experience of the forgiveness of sins after deep repentance of our sins. Psalm 51 is a prime example.

One year, when the kings were going to war, David sent Joab to lead the Israelites into battle, but he himself remained in Jerusalem. Here we see that David broke two of the Ten Commandments. Seventh, the sin of fornication, and tenth, he coveted another's wife.

As a result, Bathsheba became pregnant. At this time, David, in order to cover up his sins, tried his best to let Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, come back from the battlefield and sleep with Bathsheba. But Uriah, who was loyal to his country, would rather sleep outside the palace gate with his servants than go home to eat, drink, and sleep with his wife. David even drunk Uriah, but David's plan still failed. In the end, David Tojoab framed Uriah, arranged for him to be at the front when he took him on the expedition, and ordered the rest of the warriors to stand back when the fighting was fierce, so that Uriah could be killed on the front line. When Bathsheba wept for Uriah was over, David took Bathsheba as his wife and had a son. After David committed fornication, he fell again and again. All this, seemingly a seamless scheme, no one seems to be aware of it, and even those who know it dare not say anything. But the Bible tells us that "Jehovah was not pleased with these things which David did."

So, in 2 Samuel chapter 12, God sent the prophet Nathan to David to point out his sin.

Psalms 51 is David's penitential poem written at this time. This confessional poem is not just a simple "I'm sorry, I was wrong". Nor is it a remorse of self-punishment and self-destruction. Psalm 51 is a very rich prayer of "God-centeredness," a sincere repentance and hope that comes from the heart of God.

David was in the same room with Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, and when Bathsheba became pregnant, David tried every means to cover up his crimes, and even plotted to murder Uriah! The prince of a nation, and the man who is called the heart of God, could not stand the temptation of lust to sin and harm others, and even though everything appeared to be arranged on the outside, and no one dared to accuse or expose his evil deeds, in the depths of David's soul that guilt was never removed. David took possession of the married woman Bathsheba and killed her husband Uriah with a very vicious subterfuge. "Jehovah was not pleased with this thing that David did." It was a serious violation of the Ten Commandments, and David had no sense of repentance, and in his later verses, he deliberately "kept his mouth shut and confessed his sin" (Psalm 32:3). David refused to confess his sin until the birth of the child with Bathsheba, so Jehovah sent Nathan to David at the beginning of 2 Samuel chapter 12. Nathan's parable blow to the head caused David to wake up and confess his sins, "I have sinned against Jehovah." After David's sin, he endured the accusation of conscience in his heart, and even though he seemed to be well disguised on the outside, the invisible judge continued to accuse him of his sin, and was tormented in the secret places like a bone crushed to the point of a serious wound. Now, instead of running away, he completely confessed himself before the God who searched the hearts of men, and sincerely prayed that the Lord would forgive him, forgive him, and save him because of His love and mercy, and create a pure heart for David, and a new spirit of integrity.

David's confession of sin was by no means personal. By compiling this experience into a poem and giving it to the worshippers in the temple to compose a song and lead the crowd in singing it, David is not only declaring that "David has sinned!" but that God is going to show a better heart in this matter. In this confessional psalm, David confesses his mistakes, prays for forgiveness and restoration, resolves to praise God, and asks God to continue to give prosperity to Jerusalem. This is one of the most touching psalms in the Psalms, a man who sins and repents, asking God for forgiveness and cleansing. The poem begins with a prayer of repentance, followed by confession, followed by a plea for cleansing and restoration, thanksgiving and vows, and finally a prayer for all of Jerusalem.

The psalmist came to God, he knew that he was guilty and convicted of his sin, and he asked God to blot out his transgressions according to His mercy. Man is guilty, but God is loving, ask God to take away his transgression with his mercy. Today, my transgressions can be removed because of God's love, even though I am guilty, God still has love, God is not only a God of judgment. The psalmist does not feel that he has anything to boast about or by which he can obtain forgiveness of sins, he simply grasps the mercy of God. David confessed himself to God as a sinner. David was willing to share his experiences with others so that those who had sinned could turn to God instead of running away or covering it up or facing Him.... As Paul confessed, "I know that in me, even in my flesh, there is no goodness; Because I am determined to do good, but I am not allowed to do it. ... What a wretched me! Who can deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God for deliverance through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 7:18... 34) 。 David knew that the true acceptable sin offering was not in the sacrifice itself, but in the sincerity of the sacrificer: "The spirit of sorrow... A sorrowful and contrite heart, a heart that is deeply convicted of sin, repents of its sins, and comes to God with broken humility; With such a sacrifice (repentance), the Lord will not despise it. The psalmist prayed not only for himself but also for the nation, asking God to be gracious to His people and to build the walls of Jerusalem as a safeguard for Zion and to protect His holy people.

Let's pray

Dear Heavenly Father, please be merciful to us according to your lovingkindness, for we are all sinners. Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill us so that we may always convict and convict of our sins and stand in Your grace with a heart of integrity and fear.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

Psalm 51

A Contrite Sinner's Prayer for Pardon.

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David; when Nathan the prophet came to him after he had sinned with Bathsheba.

51 Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

2

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness *and* guilt
And cleanse me from my sin.

3

For I am conscious of my transgressions *and* I acknowledge them;
My sin is always before me.

4

Against You, You only, have I sinned
And done that which is evil in Your sight,
So that You are justified when You speak [Your sentence]
And faultless in Your judgment.

5

I was brought forth in [a state of] wickedness;
In sin my mother conceived me [and from my beginning I, too, was sinful].

6

Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
And in the hidden part [of my heart] You will make me know wisdom.

7

Purify me with ^[a]hyssop, and I will be clean;
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8

Make me hear joy and gladness *and* be satisfied;
Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

9

Hide Your face from my sins
And blot out all my iniquities.

10

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

11

Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain me with a willing spirit.

13

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

14

Rescue me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation;
Then my tongue will sing joyfully of Your righteousness *and* Your justice.

15

O Lord, open my lips,
That my mouth may declare Your praise.

16

For You do not delight in sacrifice, or else I would give it;
You are not pleased with burnt offering.

17

My [only] sacrifice [acceptable] to God is a broken spirit;
A broken and contrite heart [broken with sorrow for sin, thoroughly penitent], such, O God, You
will not despise.

18

By Your favor do good to Zion;
May You rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

19

Then will You delight in the sacrifices of righteousness,
In burnt offering and whole burnt offering;
Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

Psalm 51 is one of the most well-known and deeply moving penitential psalms in the Bible. It is attributed to King David and is believed to have been written after the prophet Nathan confronted him about his sin with Bathsheba, which involved adultery and the murder of her husband, Uriah (see 2 Samuel 11–12). Psalm 51 is a heartfelt prayer of repentance, where David acknowledges his sin, seeks forgiveness, and longs for inner renewal and restoration. It offers

deep spiritual insights into the nature of repentance, God's mercy, and the transformative power of God's forgiveness.

Full Description of Psalm 51

Psalm 51 can be broken down into several key sections, each reflecting different aspects of repentance, God's grace, and spiritual renewal. Let's look at each section in detail.

1. The Appeal for Mercy and Forgiveness (Verses 1-2)

Verses 1-2:

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.

David begins his prayer by appealing to God's mercy and love. He doesn't plead for forgiveness based on his own righteousness but on God's great compassion and love. The phrases "blot out" and "wash away" highlight the desire for complete cleansing, implying a thorough removal of sin from his life.

Spiritual Insight: This section emphasizes that repentance is rooted in God's mercy, not in human worthiness. We approach God for forgiveness not because we deserve it but because of His unfailing love and compassion. This encourages believers to be bold in seeking God's forgiveness, no matter how deep the sin.

2. Acknowledging Sin and Guilt (Verses 3-5)

Verses 3-5:

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 you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

David here expresses his deep conviction of sin. He acknowledges that his sin is not just an external act but is rooted deeply in his nature. He confesses that his sin is ultimately against God alone, though it affected others (such as Bathsheba and Uriah). David recognizes God's judgment as righteous.

Spiritual Insight: True repentance involves recognizing the weight and seriousness of sin, not only in its effect on others but more importantly in its offense against God. It involves honest self-examination and coming to terms with the reality of our fallen nature. This teaches that sin is not just a wrong action; it is a breach of our relationship with God.

3. Desire for Purity and Renewal (Verses 6-12)

Verses 6-12:

Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

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.

In these verses, David expresses a longing for inner renewal and spiritual cleansing. The request to be cleansed with "hyssop" refers to the ritual purification in the Old Testament. David longs for a pure heart and a steadfast spirit, asking God to restore the joy of salvation that he had lost due to sin. The phrase "do not cast me from your presence" and "take your Holy Spirit from me" highlights David's deep fear of losing his relationship with God.

Spiritual Insight: Repentance is not just about confessing sin but about asking God for a radical transformation of the heart and spirit. It's not enough to seek forgiveness; there must be a deep longing for spiritual renewal and restoration. David's plea for a "pure heart" and a "steadfast spirit" shows that repentance leads to a transformed life, and that renewal comes from God alone.

4. Commitment to Teach and Share God's Mercy (Verses 13-17)

Verses 13-17:

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

so that sinners will turn back to you.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,

you who are God my Savior,

and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

Open my lips, Lord,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart

you, God, will not despise.

David promises that once he is restored, he will teach others about God's ways and help sinners return to God. He acknowledges that God does not desire external sacrifices but a humble, contrite heart. A "broken and contrite heart" is what God truly desires.

Spiritual Insight: Repentance leads to a transformed life, which includes a desire to share God's mercy with others. When we experience God's forgiveness and restoration, we are called to help others turn to God. Furthermore, God is not interested in mere ritualistic sacrifices but desires a heart that is genuinely humble and repentant. This teaches that true worship is not about external performance but internal humility and brokenness.

5. Prayers for God's Restoration of Jerusalem (Verses 18-19)

Verses 18-19:

May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

David ends the psalm by praying for the restoration of Jerusalem. After his personal restoration, he prays for the restoration of God's people and God's city. He knows that when God is pleased with His people, their sacrifices will be acceptable to Him.

Spiritual Insight: The restoration of the individual leads to the restoration of the community. Personal repentance is not just for individual benefit but has broader implications for the community and even the nation. It underscores that God's work in individuals is part of His larger plan for His people.

Important Verses in Psalm 51

Psalm 51:1-2 – "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love..."

This is the heartfelt plea for God's mercy, setting the tone for the entire psalm and showing the basis of repentance — God's unfailing love.

Psalm 51:10 – "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

A powerful prayer for personal transformation and renewal, which is at the core of true repentance.

Psalm 51:17 – "My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."

A key verse emphasizing that God desires humility and brokenness over outward rituals or sacrifices.

Psalm 51:12 – "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."

A request for the restoration of joy in salvation, which is a vital aspect of spiritual healing and renewal.

Spiritual Influence of Psalm 51

Repentance and Restoration:

Psalm 51 teaches that repentance is not just about feeling sorry for sin but involves a deep, heart-level desire for spiritual renewal. It calls believers to seek God's forgiveness with humility and to allow God to create in them a pure heart and spirit.

God's Mercy and Grace:

The psalm highlights God's mercy and grace as the foundation of repentance. David acknowledges that there is nothing he can do to deserve forgiveness, but he trusts in God's loving-kindness and compassion. This shows us that no matter how great our sin, God is always ready to forgive if we come to Him with a contrite heart.

The Importance of a Broken Heart:

Psalm 51 teaches that God does not delight in outward rituals or sacrifices but in a heart that is broken and humble before Him. This emphasizes that God values inner humility and repentance over mere external religious practices.

Renewal of the Inner Self:

David's prayer for a "pure heart" and a "steadfast spirit" points to the importance of inner renewal. True repentance involves a transformation that goes beyond outward actions and

touches the very core of our being. This transformation is brought about by God's grace and the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Role of Forgiveness in Ministry:

Once David has experienced forgiveness, he promises to teach others about God's ways. This highlights the truth that forgiveness and restoration lead to a new sense of purpose — to share God's grace and call others to repentance.

Conclusion

Psalm 51 is a profound expression of repentance, emphasizing the need for a broken spirit, a pure