

DAVID'S PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS (N.I.V.)

Psalm 51

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash away all my iniquity _ and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, _ and my sin is always before me.

4 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.

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

6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts ^[a]; _ you teach ^[b] me wisdom in the inmost place.

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

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

9 Hide your face from my sins _ and blot

out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
_ and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence
_ or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your
salvation _ and grant me a willing spirit,
to sustain me.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your
ways, _ and sinners will turn back to
you.

14 Save me from bloodguilt, O God,
_ the God who saves me, _ and my
tongue will sing of your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, _ and my
mouth will declare your praise.

16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I
would bring it; _ you do not take
pleasure in burnt offerings.

17 The sacrifices of God are [c] a
broken spirit; _ a broken and contrite
heart, _ O God, you will not despise.

18 In your good pleasure make Zion
prosper; _ build up the walls of
Jerusalem.

19 Then there will be righteous
sacrifices, _ whole burnt offerings to
delight you; _ then bulls will be offered
on your altar.

Footnotes:

- . [Psalm 51:6](#) The meaning of the
Hebrew for this phrase is
uncertain.

0. [Psalm 51:6](#) Or *you desired?; / you taught*

[Psalm 51:17](#) Or *My sacrifice, O God, is*