

Psalm 51 New American Standard Bible

A Contrite Sinner's Prayer for Pardon.

Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithfulness; According to the greatness of Your compassion, wipe out my wrongdoings. ² Wash me thoroughly from my guilt And cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my wrongdoings, And my sin is constantly before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in guilt, And in sin my mother conceived me.

⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in secret You will make wisdom known to me. ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; Cleanse me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness, Let the bones You have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide Your face from my sins And wipe out all my guilty deeds. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, God, And renew a 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 wrongdoers Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You. ¹⁴ Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. ¹⁵ Lord, open my lips, So that my mouth may declare Your praise.

¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, God, You will not despise. ¹⁸ By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering;
Then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. 'Be gracious to me' says David, who is unafraid to make this bold request to God!
2. How about you - could you see yourself asking God to be gracious to you?
3. What is grace?
4. It is God giving you what you do not have, to do what you cannot do, and to be what you cannot be. It is unmerited favour.
5. Pride is what keeps us from asking. This is because the fear anticipates rejection.
6. 'According to his loving kindness'. Psalm 136 says for His faithfulness is everlasting 26 times
7. Gods compassion is second to none, empathy is to feel the same concern for the suffering of others as they themselves feel, compassion is to act on those concerns.
8. To blot out transgressions is to smudge them into oblivion so that they are no more. So that all that I have done wrong will be removed, the implications of payment is taken away as if I am innocent again.
9. It is with confidence David makes this request to God.
10. David knows he had done wrong, he is prepared to admit this wrong to God, I wonder, are you?
11. David realises his sin offended God and all of His plans for David, he knows he has broken the very heart of God.
12. David links his acts of rebellion and sinfulness to his root, his nature inherited from the garden of Eden.
13. God's truth is not just said, it is at the heart of all that is right and against all that is wrong.
14. What is your innermost being?
15. It is the spirit of who you are, your spirit, not your soul or your body, but your spirit.
16. The hidden part is your soul, wisdom is to apply truth to manage your soul.
17. 'Purify with hyssops' means to wash me clean, then I will be whiter than snow and joy will be my lives new default position.
18. Your bones in your body will suffer when sin is unconfessed, when you hide in sin it will bring sickness to your body.
19. To hide your face and turn away will make you a friend of shame.
20. 'Create in me a clean heart oh God' is to feel right again and not wrong. Wellbeing is what David is looking for.
21. To have a 'right spirit' in you is to have the assurance that all is well with your soul.
22. David knows to lose connection with God's presence is worse even than death.

23. David knows there is a connection between Gods presence and the Holy Spirit being within him.
24. Joy is the overflow of a heart full of wellbeing.
25. Joy is where our strength comes from - to overcome all of lives ups and downs.
26. David states that having gained understanding and freedom for himself, he will be able to help and set free those who are in the same boat as he was.
27. Sinners who know the ways of God are equipped to sin less as long as they walk in those ways, they now know!
28. David gets to the heart of his request - blood guiltiness his conspiracy to kill and to satisfy his desires with Bathsheba and be involved with a conspiracy to murder
29. Being free from guilt, shame and sin, leads us to sing for joy to our God who has shown us incredible mercy.
30. Praise comes from the truth that we have believed in.
31. The sacrifice of animals provided by the laws of Moses will not help in delivering us from wilful sinning.
32. A contrite heart is a heart that has been in the boxing ring with the presence of God, David wants God's blessing to come to Israel.