

Psalm 51

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
 according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
 blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
 and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
 and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned
 and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
 and blameless when you pass judgment.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
 a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;^[a]
 therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
 wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
 let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
 and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and put a new and right^[b] 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 in me a willing^[c] spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- 17 The sacrifice acceptable to God^[d] is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem;
- 19 then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.