

— Psalm 51 —
The Psalms
“Clean Harts and Clean Hands”

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David When Nathan the Prophet Went to Him, After He Had Gone in to Bathsheba.

- ¹Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
Blot out my transgressions.
- ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.
- ³For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin is always before me.
- ⁴Against You, You only, have I sinned,
And done this evil in Your sight—
That You may be found just when You speak,
And blameless when You judge.
- ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.
- ⁶Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.
- ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸Make me hear joy and gladness,
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.
- ⁹Hide Your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.
- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You.
- ¹⁴Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
The God of my salvation,
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.
- ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
- ¹⁶For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.
- ¹⁸Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion;
Build the walls of Jerusalem.
- ¹⁹Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,
With burnt offering and whole burnt offering;
Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

► While dangerous ideologies have the potential to do a lot of damage to societies and cultures, it is _____ sin that poses the greatest threat to our relationship to the Lord, our spouses, our children, our friends, and our own bodies.

2 Samuel 11:2 - It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

► Temptation and sin can come upon on in a second and then compound with furious _____ until we're in an absolute mess and lives are ruined.

*1 Peter 5:8 - **Be sober, be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

*1 Timothy 2:22 - **Flee also youthful lusts**; but **pursue** righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

*Proverbs 4:14-15 - **Do not enter** the path of the wicked, and **do not walk** in the way of evil. **Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away** from it and pass on.*

*Psalm 119:11 - Your word I have hidden in my heart, **that I might not sin against You.***

*Matthew 26:41 - **Watch and pray**, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

► Reading Scripture and praying daily are means of _____, and one of the main graces we receive is the strength to withstand temptation and sin.

*Psalm 23:6 - Surely, **goodness and mercy shall follow me** all the days of my life...*

► God knows infinitely _____ about our sins than we do. He knows about the sins we committed and about the ones we don't know we committed.

► When we confess our sins, it's not as if we're bringing God up to speed on what we've been up to. We're not _____ anything He doesn't already know. We are acknowledging our guilt, knowing ahead of time the infinite storehouses of _____ he has laid up for us in Christ.

► The closer we are to God, the more _____ we are of our own sinfulness.

► If and when we are in a position where love demands that we confront someone about their sin, we must do so _____ and lovingly, ideally where there is an established relationship of love and trust.

2 Samuel 12:9-15 - Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.'" So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die." Then Nathan departed to his house.

► When we sin, we should have the confidence David has here to know that God _____ us with His mercy. And we are tempted to sin, we should be very aware that our sin has real _____.

Psalm 130:3-4 - If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

► To fear the Lord does not mean to constantly worry if we have exhausted God's mercy. In fact, the only time we should fear that we are not God's children is when we are _____ to repent.

1 John 1:8-10 - If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

► To fear the Lord is to love God and to _____ in His ways and keep His commandments, which always lead to life and blessing.

*Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the Lord is **the beginning of knowledge.***

*Proverbs 14:27 - The fear of the Lord is **a fountain of life.***

*Proverbs 22:4 - The reward for humility and the fear of the Lord is **riches and honor and life.***

► APPLICATIONS

1. Be _____ to confess your sins.
2. Confess your sins _____ and often.

Most merciful God, I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done, and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; and I have not loved my neighbor as myself (*confess specific sins*). I am truly sorry and I humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on me and forgive me; that I may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

3. Confession should be as _____ as the sin.
4. Be quick to _____.

*Luke 17:3-4 - Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' **you must forgive him.***

5. Determine ways to practically _____ sin.

James 4:7 - Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.