

# SUMMER IN THE Psalms

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**Series:** Summer in the Psalms

**Date:** August 9th, 2026

**Scripture:** Psalm 51

**Title:** The Repentant Life

**Author:** Esther Baird

## **Devotional:**

We've been thinking about the way in which we live our life as followers of Jesus and understanding what that looks like. And one of the major components of the Christian faith is understanding what to do when we mess up, when we don't properly orient our life and heart around Jesus... when we sin. Psalm 51 is a powerful Psalm because David wrote it after both committing adultery and murder. He knew he had a big problem and what we read in Psalm 51 was that it was a heart problem. At the root of our sin there is always a heart problem - - we think we know better than God and we allow our broken heart to act out to get what it wants whether that's gossip to make ourselves feel better, cheating at work to advance our career, lashing out in anger at someone to make ourself feel more powerful or all the way to adultery and murder. When we lose sight of the life God has called us to (properly oriented around him) we are inclined to orient it around ourselves, and what our broken heart whispers it wants. But David knew that the cure for that was repentance and to ask God to restore his heart. We can't fix our own broken hearts, but we can ask God for a 'broken and contrite spirit' we can ask God to give us a 'clean heart'. Of course there is only One person who had a fully clean heart and so when we, like David, ask God to give us a clean heart we are asking him to give us the heart of Jesus. When Jesus died for us, it was so that when God sees us, he sees Jesus. He sees the heart and life of Jesus. We will still sin, but when we do we must repent we must admit we need help, we must return time and time again to God to ask for forgiveness. And because Jesus has paid for our sins, we are already forgiven and God sees the heart of Jesus when he sees us. God has created in us a clean heart. That's not permission to sin, it's freedom to live without shame as we become more and more like Jesus through his grace.

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**Questions:**

- Where do you most need to pray, "Create in me a clean heart, O God" this week?
- Is there a sin, habit, or attitude that God may be calling you to confess and turn from?
- How does the promise of God's forgiveness in Christ encourage you to return to Him rather than hide from Him?

**Psalm 51 Song:** - [Click to Listen on Youtube](#) or scan the QR code below!

