



PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

PCPC TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Lesson Five: David's Prayer of Confession Psalm 51

Matt Fray – October 11, 2022

- 51** 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 only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.
- 5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- 6** Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the 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 broken rejoice.
- 9** Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10** Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

- ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- ¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you tend to respond when you realize you have sinned? How do you feel? What do you do? Whom do you tell?
2. Why is prayer an essential first step in responding to our sin?
3. Read Psalm 51:1. According to lines two and three (“according to...”) what is the foundation for our prayers of confession? Why should this give us confidence in confession?
4. Read Psalm 51:7. What is hyssop? How does it point us to the cross of Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 9:13-14, 19-20)? How might this influence the way you pray?
5. Close your small group time by praying together based on Psalm 51:17, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

As you pray Psalm 51:17, keep this simple and wise advice in mind: “To pray the Bible, you simply go through the passage line by line, talking to God about whatever comes to mind as you read the text (Donald Whitney, Praying the Bible, p. 33).”