

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

David, King of Israel

A prayer of David after Nathan the prophet confronted him about David's adultery with Bathsheba; as recorded in Psalm 51:1-17.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of your tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done this evil in your sight: that you might be justified when you speak, and be clear when you judge.

Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part you shall make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones that you have broken may rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence; and take not your holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with your free spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways; and sinners shall be converted unto you. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, you God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips: and my mouth shall show forth your praise. For you desire not sacrifice; else would I give it: you delight not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

David's prayer was answered. He was forgiven, restored and became a godly king, as the Apostle John stated in his first epistle, when "we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1:9).

Nathan's rebuke of David shows the power of God's Word to produce effectual results when it is proclaimed by a spirit-filled prophet.

Adapted from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

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