

A PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

Read [Psalm 51:1-19](#)

1 John 2:1 (NASB)

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

As believers, even with a nature of flesh upon us, we have lack and commit sins. God is always willing to forgive us whenever we come to Him with a sincere broken and contrite heart. Whenever we pray, we must recognize before God our faults and sins, and He is merciful to cleanse us and make us return to our place of origin with Him.

Just as we sin, David, King of Israel which according to the Bible was a man after God's own heart. David after having recognized his sin went before God with the prayer that we find in Psalm 51. Here is a sketch of the prayer of David that can set an example for us. Although David had suffered some punishment for his sin, God forgave him and restored him.

Request for forgiveness and mercy ([Psalm 51:1-2](#))

¹ Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my SIN.

Confession of sin ([Psalm 51:3-6](#))

³ For I know my transgressions, And my SIN is ever before me.

⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in SIN my mother conceived me.

⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

Prayer for moral cleanliness ([Psalm 51:7-12](#))

⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which 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 steadfast 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 me with a willing spirit.

Promise of renewed service ([Psalm 51:13-17](#))

¹³ *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise.

¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Request for national restoration ([Psalm 51:18-19](#))

¹⁸ By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

[Hebrews 4:15-16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁵ **For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.**

¹⁶ **Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**