

Psalm 51 (NIV)

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

² **Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

⁴ **Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.**

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ **Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

¹⁴ **Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ **You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

¹⁸ **May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

¹⁹ Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.