

# Gamma 26

## Study 4

### PSALM 51

1. Psalm 51 begins with David's plea, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love." What does it mean to ask for mercy according to God's steadfast love?
2. Psalm 51 reflects deep sorrow and confession for sin. The Hebrew language describes sin with different words – "peša'" (transgression), "ḥaṭṭā'āt" (sin), and "āwōn" (iniquity). How do these dimensions of sin help us understand the seriousness of David's confession?
3. Reflection Question. How do these different aspects of sin help you personally understand the seriousness of your own sin and the need for God's mercy?
4. In Psalm 51:3, David acknowledges his transgressions and confesses his sins before God. But in verse 4, he says, "Against you, you only, have I sinned." Why does David say this when he has clearly wronged Bathsheba and Uriah?
5. In verses 5-6, David says, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart." What do these verses teach us about the nature of sin and God's desire for our hearts?

6. Psalm 51 shows David's deep sorrow and confession. What is the difference between remorse and true repentance, and why is that distinction important?
7. In verses 7 and 10, David prays, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" and "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." What do these verses reveal about the nature of forgiveness and inner transformation?
8. In Psalm 51:11, David pleads, "Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me." What does this request reveal about the role of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life? How does this relate to the New Testament teaching on quenching or grieving the Spirit?
9. In Psalm 51:13-15, David says, "Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you." How does this reflect the transformative power of God's mercy in David's life?
10. We often think that when we sin, we must perform acts of penance, service, or make sacrifices to earn God's forgiveness. How do verses 16-17 challenge this understanding of what God truly desires as sacrifice?
11. Reflection Question. David's prayer in Psalm 51 is raw, honest, and deeply vulnerable. How does his example challenge you to approach God in your own times of failure and brokenness? What practical steps can you take to nurture a repentant heart and embrace God's ongoing work of renewal in your life?

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Takeaway</b></p>
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**True repentance is more than regret. It is a heartfelt turning back to God, recognizing the deep seriousness of sin and our need for His mercy. God desires a broken and contrite heart, not empty rituals. Through the Holy Spirit's cleansing power, He offers forgiveness, inner renewal, and restoration. Like David, we are invited to come before God with honesty and humility, trusting in His steadfast love to transform us and empower us to live faithfully.**