

## PSALM 51 (The Living Bible Translation)

*Written after Nathan the prophet had come to inform David of God's judgment against him because of his adultery with Bathsheba, and his murder of Uriah, her husband.*

O loving and kind God, have mercy. Have pity upon me and take away the awful stain of my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Oh, wash me, cleanse me from this guilt. Let me be pure again. <sup>3</sup>For I admit my shameful deed—it haunts me day and night. <sup>4</sup>It is against you and you alone I sinned and did this terrible thing. You saw it all, and your sentence against me is just. <sup>5</sup>But I was born a sinner, yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup>You deserve honesty from the heart; yes, utter sincerity and truthfulness. Oh, give me this wisdom.

<sup>7</sup>Sprinkle me with the cleansing blood<sup>[a]</sup> and I shall be clean again. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup>And after you have punished me, give me back my joy again. <sup>9</sup>Don't keep looking at my sins—erase them from your sight. <sup>10</sup>Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. <sup>11</sup>Don't toss me aside, banished forever from your presence. Don't take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>Restore to me again the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. <sup>13</sup>Then I will teach your ways to other sinners, and they—guilty like me—will repent and return to you. <sup>14-15</sup>Don't sentence me to death. O my God, you alone can rescue me. Then I will sing of your forgiveness,<sup>[b]</sup> for my lips will be unsealed—oh, how I will praise you.

<sup>16</sup>You don't want penance;<sup>[c]</sup> if you did, how gladly I would do it! You aren't interested in offerings burned before you on the altar. <sup>17</sup>It is a broken spirit you want—remorse and penitence. A broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not ignore.

<sup>18</sup>And Lord, don't punish Israel for my sins—help your people and protect Jerusalem.<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>19</sup>And when my heart is right,<sup>[e]</sup> then you will rejoice in the good that I do\* and in the bullocks I bring to sacrifice upon your altar.