

## Psalm 51

- <sup>1</sup> **Have mercy** on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
**blot out** my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> **Wash** me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and **cleans** me from my sin.
- <sup>3</sup> For I **know** my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I **sinned**,  
and **done** what is evil in your sight,  
so that you **are justified** in your sentence  
and **blameless** when you **pass** judgement.
- <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother **conceived** me.
- <sup>6</sup> You **desire** truth in the inward being;\*  
therefore **teach** me wisdom in my secret heart.
- <sup>7</sup> **Purge** me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
**wash** me, and I **shall be** whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me **hear** joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have **crushed** rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> **Hide** your face from my sins,  
and **blot out** all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup> **Create** in me a clean heart, O God,  
and **put** a new and right\* spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing\* spirit.
- <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.
- <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your  
deliverance.
- <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- <sup>16</sup> For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not  
be pleased.
- <sup>17</sup> The sacrifice acceptable to God\* is a broken  
spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will  
not despise.

## Psalm 51 The Message

- 51** <sup>1-3</sup> Generous in love—God, **give** grace!  
Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record.  
**Scrub away** my guilt,  
**soak out** my sins in your laundry.  
I **know** how bad I've been;  
my sins are **staring** me down.
- <sup>4-6</sup> You're the One I've **violated**, and you've **seen**  
it all, **seen** the full extent of my evil.  
You have all the facts before you;  
whatever you **decide** about me is fair.  
I've **been out of step** with you for a long time,  
in the wrong since before I was **born**.  
What you're after is truth from the inside out.  
**Enter** me, then; **conceive** a new, true life.
- <sup>7-15</sup> **Soak** me in your laundry and I'll come out clean,  
**scrub** me and I'll have a snow-white life.  
**Tune** me in to foot-tapping songs,  
**set** these once-broken bones to dancing.  
**Don't look** too close for blemishes,  
**give** me a clean bill of health.  
God, **make** a fresh start in me,  
**shape** a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.
- Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe  
holiness in me.  
Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my  
sails!
- Give me a job teaching rebels your ways  
so the lost can find their way home.  
Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God,  
and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways.  
Unbutton my lips, dear God;  
I'll let loose with your praise.
- <sup>16-17</sup> Going through the motions doesn't please you,  
a flawless performance is nothing to you.  
I learned God-worship  
when my pride was shattered.  
Heart-shattered lives ready for love  
don't for a moment escape God's notice.