

Psalm 51

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God
([2 Samuel 12:1–12](#))

For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. When Nathan the prophet came to him after his adultery with Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy on me, [a](#) O God,
according to Your loving devotion;
according to Your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me clean of 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 that You may be proved right when You speak
and blameless when You judge.**b**

5 Surely I was brought forth in iniquity;
I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

6 Surely You desire truth in the inmost being;
You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

7 Purify 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 iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from Your presence;

take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

and sustain me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,

and sinners will return to You.

14 Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God,

the God of my salvation,

and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare Your praise.

16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

You take no pleasure in burnt offerings.

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

18In Your good pleasure, cause Zion to prosper;
build up the walls of Jerusalem.

19Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices,
in whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

Footnotes:

1 a Or *Be gracious to me*

4 b *LXX and victorious when You judge* ; cited in [Romans 3:4](#).