

A Few Famous Psalms

Psalm 51

The king, David, has committed two of the most vial sins ever: adultery and murder. He has apparently moved on with life, perhaps assuming that his sin was behind him, and repercussions were mute. However, Nathan, God's prophet, according to God's instruction, confronts the king and calls him out. With a heart completely crushed by the weight of conviction, King David drafts this Psalm as a prayer, filled with requests and acknowledgments, each reflecting sound and deep theology.

<u>Requests</u>	<u>Acknowledgments</u>
Have mercy on me	According to your steadfast love
Blot out my transgressions	According to your abundant mercy
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin!	I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me.
	Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 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.
Purge me with hyssop	I shall be clean
Wash me	I shall be whiter than snow
Let me hear joy and gladness	
Let the bones that you have broken rejoice	
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.	
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.	
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.	
Restore to me the Joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.	I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,	My tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips, and...	My mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;	Then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.