

“Repentance”

Psalm 51



- 1 You are kind, God!
Please have pity on me.
- You are always merciful!
Please wipe away my sins.
- 2 Wash me clean from all
of my sin and guilt.
- 3 I know about my sins,
and I cannot forget
my terrible guilt.
- 4 You are really the one
I have sinned against;
I have disobeyed you
and have done wrong.
- So it is right and fair for you
to correct and punish me.
- 5 I have sinned and done wrong
since the day I was born.
- 6 But you want complete honesty,
so teach me true wisdom.
- 7 Wash me with hyssop until I am clean
and whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me be happy and joyful!
You crushed my bones,
now let them celebrate.
- 9 Turn your eyes from my sin
and cover my guilt.
- 10 Create pure thoughts in me
and make me faithful again.
- 11 Don't chase me away from you
or take your Holy Spirit
away from me.
- 12 Make me as happy as you did
when you saved me;
make me want to obey!
- 13 I will teach sinners your Law,
and they will return to you.
- 14 Keep me from any deadly sin.
Only you can save me!
Then I will shout and sing
about your power to save.
- 15 Help me to speak,
and I will praise you, Lord.
- 16 Offerings and sacrifices
are not what you want.
- 17 The way to please you
is to feel sorrow
deep in our hearts.
This is the kind of sacrifice
you won't refuse.
- 18 Please be willing, Lord,
to help the city of Zion
and to rebuild its walls.
- 19 Then you will be pleased
with the proper sacrifices,
and we will offer bulls
on your altar once again.

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- Where has sin gone in our modern world? Nobody even likes to bring it up anymore.
 - We're in a great age of denial.
 - No one thinks they've sinned unless they've killed somebody...and, even then...
 - We have too many excuses, rationalizations, and euphemisms for our sin.
 - Hey! We're all victims, right?
 - So much emphasis is put on the individual that we each have our own subjective moral compass.
 - We don't actually sin as much today.
 - What were once vices are now virtues.
 - If we don't fear God, why should we worry about sin?
 - We're not directly accountable to the community the way people used to be.
 - Other
- What phrases describe your prayers?
 - I'm very open and honest with God.
 - My prayers are rather generic.
 - I reflect a lot on my actions (or lack of action!)
 - I bargain with God
 - I don't really pray much.
 - I pray mostly for others.
 - I give thanks more than I confess.
 - I use prayer to listen for God.
 - Other
- Why are we always repentant after we're caught or after we've suffered consequences?
 - Our first sinful instinct is to hide from ourselves and from God.
 - Sin isn't real to us before we suffer.
 - We're afraid to lose respect or status.
 - It's too easy to fool ourselves.
 - Afterwards, there's nothing to lose.
 - Other
- Our darkest sins usually begin with small, seemingly inconsequential choices. The insidious nature of sin is that it rarely involves a single, defining decision, but, rather, it is a product of many small steps.
 - Christ's blood atones for our sin.
 - Christ is our mediator—he stands with us before the throne of grace.
 - God is faithful to His promises.
 - God winks at our sins.
 - We're God's children, and we're never far from God's love.
 - We know God is a loving and merciful God.
 - We've led pretty good lives.
 - We are saved by our faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Other
- David likened his sinful nature to leprosy. What a terrible and graphic mental image of sin! Have you ever taken such an honest look at your sin?
- When have you felt joyful enough to tell others about Christ or your church?
 - I was inspired by church music or worship.
 - When the Lord helped me through a difficult situation.
 - I responded to a sermon or Bible study.
 - Through prayer or meditation, I felt the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.
 - I realized that someone truly needed a closer relationship with God.
 - I felt truly connected to the body of Christ.
 - I witness and testify all the time!
 - I don't usually feel comfortable sharing.
 - Other
- How can we escape the consequences of our sin?
 - We should never be ashamed to turn to God.
 - A humble, honest, and open heart
 - True repentance and seeking forgiveness
 - Witnessing and living God's truth
 - Trusting in Christ as Lord and Savior
 - Other