

Bible Text New International Version	What does the psalm reveal about God and how we are to approach, address, and respond to God?
<p>Psalm 51^[a]</p> <p><i>For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.</i></p> <p>¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.</p> <p>² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.</p> <p>³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.</p> <p>⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.</p> <p>⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.</p> <p>⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.</p> <p>⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.</p> <p>⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.</p> <p>⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.</p> <p>¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.</p> <p>¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>a. The Hebrew is plural.</p>	

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<p>Psalm 51 (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p>¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.</p> <p>¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.</p> <p>¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.</p> <p>¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.</p> <p>¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.</p> <p>¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is^[b] a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.</p> <p>¹⁸ May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.</p> <p>¹⁹ Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.</p> <p>b. The Hebrew has <i>Selah</i> (a word of uncertain meaning) here.</p>	

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<p>Psalm 130</p> <p><i>A song of ascents.</i></p> <p>¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;</p> <p>² Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.</p> <p>³ If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?</p> <p>⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.</p> <p>⁵ I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.</p> <p>⁶ I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.</p> <p>⁷ Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.</p> <p>⁸ He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.</p>	

Reflections

We confess our sin for our own benefit, so that we can be in right relationship with God. Think of a time when you felt broken before God and in need of His mercy and cleansing. Have you been able to confess this sin to God? If so, share how this experience was able to restore the joy of your salvation. If not, take a moment to confess any sins you are hanging onto today and pray for God's cleansing forgiveness.

How can we apply what we know about God's abundant mercy in our relationships with others? Is there someone you need to forgive today? Is there someone from whom you need to seek forgiveness? Pray for God's Holy Spirit to strengthen you for these tasks.

