

Heart Cry of a King

King David of ancient Israel tasted of the pleasures of sin yet hungered for something more satisfying when the pleasures turned sour. One spring, instead of going out to battle with his troops like he normally did, he stayed at home. While taking a walk one evening on the roof of his palace, he happened to notice a beautiful young woman bathing. It turns out she was the wife of one of his best soldiers and the granddaughter of a trusted advisor. He should have known better but he sent for her anyway. Adultery led to pregnancy and pregnancy led to the murder of her faithful husband. A quick marriage took place as David ignored his conscience and most folks kept their mouths shut . . . at least publicly. But Nathan the courageous prophet, through the means of a creative story, exposed the king's hypocrisy. David's heart was broken and he freely admitted his sin. Psalm 51 is a testimony of David's repentance and search for cleansing. He longed to be forgiven of his adultery, murder, and deception. Yet he realized his problem went deeper than his outward actions. The king longed to be free from the paralyzing influence of an "unclean heart".

The Bible teaches that "the heart" is the driving force in our spiritual lives. It is the central part of our invisible self that sets our course and chooses our actions. Though man's will is free, it is strongly tainted by inward "spiritual corruption". This influence leads to sinful choices and the effects of these choices can be seen all around us even today. David experienced the forgiveness



of his sins when he cried out in repentance to the Lord. But the desire of his heart was for more than just a sense of forgiveness and a restored relationship with the Creator. He wanted a complete inward transformation. Nothing short of a clean heart and victory over his inward depravity would satisfy him. Thank God such a relationship and such a cleansing is available to every member of our wayward race!

The Bible speaks of Jesus' power to "save to the uttermost" and "cleans from all sin." Mankind has a two-fold problem. We are "bad in actions" and "bad in heart". Repentance from all sin and faith in the Lord Jesus brings us into a relationship with God. This is also known as the "new birth" or "regeneration". After this experience, we sense our need, as King David did, for a cleansing that goes to the "heart of the problem". We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and receive a clean heart. This is also known as sanctification. When one has experienced these two works of grace, they are brought into a uniquely intimate and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ. A clean heart is what God originally intended for all people. It gives us victory in this world and prepares us for the next. Make Psalm 51 the cry of your heart and follow the example of the godly Old Testament king who yearned to be free from the guilt and the pollution of sin.

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