

The traits of a Repentant Heart

| Psalms 51-1-6 NKJV | Psalms 51:7-13 NKJV |
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| <p>1. Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.</p> <p>2. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.</p> <p>3. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.</p> <p>4. Against You, you only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.</p> <p>5. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.</p> <p>6. Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.</p> | <p>7. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.</p> <p>8. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice.</p> <p>9. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.</p> <p>10. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.</p> <p>11. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.</p> <p>12. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.</p> <p>13. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.</p> |

Though David penned this psalm upon a very particular occasion, yet it is of as general use as any of David's psalms; it is the most eminent of the penitential psalms, and most expressive of the cares and desires of a repenting sinner. It is a pity indeed that in our devout addresses to God we should have anything else to do than to praise God, for that is the work of heaven; but we make other work for ourselves by our own sins and follies: we must come to the throne of grace in the posture of penitents, to confess our sins and sue for the grace of God; and, if therein we would take with us words, we can nowhere find any more apposite than in this psalm, which is the record of David's repentance for his sin in the matter of Uriah, which was the greatest blemish upon his character: all the rest of his faults were nothing to this; it is said of him (**1 Ki. 15:5**), That **"he turned not aside from the commandment of the Lord all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite."**

"This great song, pulsating with the agony of a sin-stricken soul, helps us to understand the stupendous wonder of the everlasting mercy of our God." (G. Campbell Morgan)

Traits are distinguishing quality or characteristic, typically one belonging to a person, such as *"he was a letter-of-the-law man, a common trait among coaches"*

Synonyms: characteristic, attribute, feature, quality, property, distinction, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, quirk, foible, singularity, oddity, eccentricity, abnormality, mark, trademark, hallmark, earmark, mannerism, way, trick, habit, custom, tendency, lineament, essential quality.

ORIGIN

mid-16th century: from French, from Latin tractus **'drawing, draft'** (see tract). An early sense was 'stroke of the pen or pencil in a picture', giving rise to the sense 'a particular feature of mind or character' (mid-18th century).

| Scripture (s) | Commentary on the scripture (s) | Cross Reference Scripture (s) |
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| v. 3-6 | <p>David's confesses his sin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V.3 he acknowledges his ever-present Sins • V.4 his sorrowfulness • V.5 He know from where his sin nature comes • V.6 he confesses God's desire for him | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proverbs 28:13 ➤ James 5:16 ➤ Acts 17:30 |
| v. 1, 2, 7, 9 | <p>David's earnestly seeks for the pardon of his sin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ V.1 he seeks the mercies and the lovingkindness of God ➤ V.2 he desires to be thoroughly washed by God ➤ V.7 he asked to be purged (to clear of guilt to free from moral or ceremonial defilement) with hyssop (the hyssop of the Bible, was historically used in ritual cleansing of lepers) ➤ V.9 He asked God to not look at his sins and erase his immoral or grossly unfair behavior (iniquities) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mark 11:25 ➤ Matthew 18:21-22 ➤ Colossians 3:13 |
| v. 8, 12 | <p>David's plea for peace of conscience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V.8 His convictions was a recording repeated and he desires to hear joy and gladness • V.12 He begs for the beginning of his salvation to be restored | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Psalm 32:3 ➤ Psalm 38:4John 16:8 ➤ Isaiah 6:5 |
| v. 10, 11, 14 | <p>David asks for grace to go and sin no more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ V.10 Creation of a clean heart ➤ V.11 Remaining in God's presence ➤ V.14 Deliverance from the quilt of murder (Uriah the Hittite) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 Peter 3:9 ➤ Acts 3:19 ➤ Luke 15:7 |
| v. 15 | <p>David asked for liberty of access to praise God:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ V. 15 God put your hands forth to open my lips and my mouth will truly praise you. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Psalm 98:1-4 ➤ Psalm 99:1-5 ➤ Hebrews 13:15 |
| v. 13 | <p>David promises with a converted heart to do what he could for the good of the souls of others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teach the transgressors (The biblical definition of <i>transgression</i> is <u>to sin against God</u> or to break his laws and commandments) David's conversion is to education transgressors God's ways/commandments. ➤ Converted (of a building, having been adapted to be suitable for a new purpose. ➤ Biblically Converted (The biblical definition of converted is a person's turning to God. It involves a change of heart, particularly toward repentance, and forsaking sins. ➤ Conversion is the whole turning to God, resulting in an interior transformation of the person. The biblical terms for conversion mean "to turn" or "to return" | <p>Changed hearts back to God:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 Sam 10:9 ➤ 2 Cor. 5:17 ➤ Jeremiah 24:7 ➤ Ezekiel 36:26 |

Contrast David's **good** traits vs **bad** traits:

| | Good Traits | Bad Traits |
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| 1. | A Man after God's heart (1 Samuel 13:14) | "Davis lay with her" (2 Samuel 11:4) Idolatry |
| 2. | V. 3. David <u>confesses his sins</u> | "Uriah dies in battle" (2 Sam 11:15-17) murder |
| 3. | V. 4. He is <u>sorrowful for is sins</u> | V.10 <u>unclean Heart and sad continence</u> |
| 4. | V. 8. He was <u>convicted</u> | V.8. No conviction and therefore no Joy |
| 5. | V. 10. David <u>repents</u> and <u>desired to be changed</u> | V.14. desire to be changed unrepentant and no <u>Guilt.</u> |