

DAY 1 - A Clean Heart

Psalm 51

51 *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

2 *Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

3 *For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.*

4 *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*

5 *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

6 *Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*

7 *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

8 *Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.*

9 *Hide thy face from my sins and blot out all mine iniquities.*

10 *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

11 *Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

12 *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

13 *Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

14 *Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.*

15 *O Lord, open thou, my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

16 *For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.*

17 *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

18 *Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.*

19 *Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.*

Lent begins with courage — the courage to be honest before God.

Focus: Confession that restores.

Psalm 51 is David's prayer after moral failure, yet instead of defending himself, he cries out, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." David does not ask God to repair his image; he asks God to renew his inner life. That is the spirit of Lent. It is not about outward religious performance but inward transformation. True repentance is not humiliation — it is invitation. It is the doorway back to intimacy with God.

David understands that sin is more than behavior; it is a condition of the heart. When he says "create," he uses the same language as Genesis — acknowledging that only God can recreate what has been broken. We cannot self-improve our way into holiness. We must surrender to divine renewal. Lent reminds us that spiritual growth requires humility. A broken and contrite heart is not weakness; it is worship. God does not despise repentance — He responds to it.

This season is a call to renewal from the inside out. Before we speak to our city, before we lead in justice and service, we must allow God to cleanse us personally and collectively. Revival always begins in repentance. As we enter these forty days, may we lay down pride, release hidden burdens, and ask boldly for restored joy. The same God who forgave David is ready to renew us.

Prayer: Lord, create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us. Restore the joy of Your salvation and prepare us for resurrection power. Amen.