

Psalm 51

Fellowship Forgiveness

David had a special *relationship* with God, but there were times when David fell out of *fellowship* with God. This Psalm describes such a time and David's response. We can learn much by looking at David's response in Psalm 51 to being confronted with grave sins that he had committed.

- A Cry for _____ (51:1-2)
 - *Blot out; Wash me; Cleanse me*
- A Confession of _____ (51:3-6)
 - *Positional or Relationship Forgiveness – offered in advance*
 - *Fellowship Forgiveness – offered for ongoing sin*
- A Call for _____ (51:7-9)
- A Commitment to _____ (51:10-12)
 - *Deeper fellowship and spiritual maturity*
- A Consecration of _____ (51:13-17)
 - *A repentant heart brings us back into fellowship*
- A Concern for _____ (51:18-19)



1. Verse 6 states, " ...You want *truth* in the inner person". The Hebrew word translated as "truth" is *emet* which conveys the idea of certainty, dependability, firmness or sureness. It is used 127 times in the Old Testament usually used to describe the divine attribute of God's truthfulness and is often applied to God's words and commandments. It is also a characteristic of those who know God. Here it means moral integrity and reliable living that conforms to God's truth. Do you live according to God's truth?
2. In verses 2 and 7, the Hebrew word *kabas* is used meaning *wash*. It is used 51 times in the Old Testament and was commonly used to refer to the laundering or washing of clothes. It is used frequently in the Torah to refer to ceremonial cleansing. To David, his sin had defiled him to the point where he needed to be cleaned within – something only God can do.
3. Verse 10 starts with "Create in me a *clean* heart, O God". The Hebrew word to describe the heart is *tahor*, which means "clean" or "pure". It is another word used extensively in the Old Testament (94 times). In this instance David uses the term in a moral sense in asking God to purify his heart – the cleaning of the spiritual contamination that enters the heart of man is impossible with man.
4. Sin grows from the root of pride – the exaltation of our will over the will of God. This results in a hardening of our hearts. A "broken and contrite heart" (verse 17) is what is required. We must clothe ourselves in humility as we confess our sins to God and He will give grace to the humble.
5. Questions to consider this week:
 - Do I have a proper view of myself and my sin nature?
 - Do I spend adequate time confessing my sin to God each day?
 - When confessing my sin, do I identify the specific sins that I am guilty of committing?
 - Do I praise God after having confessed my sins?