

Psalm 51:1-12

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.
- ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- ⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

God Our Cleansing

New beginnings. A fresh start. Our desire for a slate to be wiped clean, to get a do-over, or second chance is something we dream about and often times struggle to believe is even possible. We may find ourselves asking: What hope do I have for a fresh start? Is a new beginning possible for someone like me? How can I be cleansed of my sin and the mistakes I've made?

1. Read Psalm 51:1-12 and underline the references to the **psalmist** including all the pronouns (*me, my, I*).

Reflect: What does the psalmist need to be cleansed of and how does he describe himself?

Reflect: What are the requests that the psalmist makes of God?

2. Read the passage again and mark **GOD** including pronouns (*your, you*).

Reflect: What can you learn from the psalmist about God and His character?

We can certainly relate with the author of this psalm in our daily sin struggles that leave us feeling dirty, ashamed, and alone. The psalmist, King David, was known as *a man after God's own heart*, yet he still was in need of the cleansing work of God after committing adultery and conspiring to murder. The good news is that God is in the heart-cleansing business! We can come to God at any moment to confess our sin and be cleansed. (God does not take His Holy Spirit away from New Testament believers.) How does knowing your sin is washed away encourage you to come to Him and rest in His mercy? How will your life be impacted if you embrace this truth?