

## “JOY IS RESTORED”

Psalm 51:1-19

(How the Blood of Jesus Washes Whiter Than Snow)

“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” (v. 7)

### — INTRODUCTION —

- Psalm 51 is David’s response to conviction of sin.
- David had sinned with Bathsheba (II Samuel 11:4), and then covered his sin.
- God sent Nathan along to confront David about his sin and cover-up. (II Samuel 12:7)
- David then prays and cries out to God for mercy, an intense prayer that speaks volumes.

### Questions With Answers

1. How does “Hyssop” make us whiter than snow?
2. What is “Truth in the inward parts” (v. 6)?
3. How does God create a clean heart within us (v. 10)?
4. Why does a broken spirit please God (v. 17)?

### David’s 4 Great Prayer Requests

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#### I. David Prays for a CLEAN Spirit (v. 1-10a)

“Blot out my transgressions” (v. 1)

“Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquities” (v. 2)

“Create in me a clean heart, O God” (v.10)

**Question:** Why does David pray this way?

**Answer:** David feels the guilt of his own sin.

David believes that God has the power to remove all guilt and sin from his soul.

**Question:** What is “Truth in the inward parts” (v. 6)?

**Answer:** It means what we all must pursue:

- To be **clean** on the inside.
- To be **honest** underneath.
- To be **transparent** before God.

**Fact:** “Inward parts” refers to the seat of our **mind, heart, emotions, and soul.**

**Fact:** A “clean heart” (v. 10) refers to:

- A heart that is **pure**
- A heart that is **undefiled**
- A heart that is **free** from debris.

**Fact:** The word “Pure” means **without mixture.**

**Question:** How does God create a clean heart?

**Answer:** Through the “ministry of hyssop” (in Jesus).

### “Purge Me With Hyssop” (v. 7)

**Fact:** Hyssop was a bright green creeping vine that grew in the Sinai Valley.

**Fact:** Hyssop was a plant used by the Jews in their purification and sprinkling ceremonies.

**Fact:** Hyssop alone could, by the Levitical Law, cleanse from:

- The defilement of leprosy. (Leviticus 14:4)
- The contact with a corpse. (Numbers 19:18)

**Fact:** Hyssop was the remedy of purifying power with its “blood of sprinkling” (Lev. 14:6-7).

**Fact:** Hyssop was a shadow (or type) of the New Testament sprinkling of the blood of Jesus (Heb. 9:19-26).

### What Is David Praying For ?

- David needs the remedy for his sin which has the greatest purifying power.
- David prays for the reality which the legal ceremonies only symbolized.
- David knows that nothing but atoning blood can take away his stain of sin.
- David asks for God to let his sin offering (Jesus) purge his heart.
- David reveals to us all that the O. T. type (hyssop) and the N. T. fulfillment (Christ’s Blood) is the only power that can remove all sin, pollution, debris, defilement and corruption!!!

**Question:** Is there really power in the blood of Jesus?

**Answer:** “I shall be clean and whiter than snow.” (v. 7)

**Question:** What does it mean to pray “Wash me thoroughly” ? (v. 2)

**Answer:** It is praying that God will make us pure by the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit upon the heart.

**Question:** Why is a pure heart so important?

**Answer:** Proverbs 4:23 explains it all !!!

## II. David Prays for a *CONSTANT* Spirit (v. 10b)

“and renew a right spirit within me”

**Fact:** The word “right” means four things: **Firm, Steadfast, Established, and Constant.**

**Fact:** David is praying for a constant spirit, or:

- That his heart will be single-minded.
- That his heart will be resolute.
- That his heart will not be divided.

**Fact:** The word “renew” (in v. 10) means:

“Lord, write your law upon my heart and increase my watchfulness so that I’ll be strong and able to stand when tempted.

### III. David Prays for a *CONSCIOUS* Spirit (v. 11)

“Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.” (v. 11)

#### **David’s Prayer Is Two-Fold**

- #1. “Cast me not away from thy presence” means:  
True joy can only be found in the presence of God.
- #2. “Take not thy Holy Spirit from me” means:
- Do not hesitate to prick my conscience when necessary.
  - Do not stop convicting me when I stray or sin in any way.
  - Do not remove Your influence which produces holiness in my inner man.

### IV. David Prays for a *CHEERFUL* Spirit (v. 12)

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation”

**Question:** Why does David pray this way?

**Answer:**

1. Because our obedience to the Holy Spirit will be the extent of our joyfulness.
2. Because joy is forfeited when we grieve the Holy Spirit.
3. Because David’s joy and peace were stolen by sin.

**Fact:** David isn’t really praying for joy.

**Fact:** David is praying to live an obedient life which will result in joy and a clear conscience.

*AMEN!*

**Pastor Bill Kirk**