

Forgiveness Prayer

Humble thyself under the Mighty Hand of GOD and Repent

Have pity on me, O GOD, in keeping with your mercy. In keeping with your unlimited compassion, wipe out my rebellious acts. **Wash** me thoroughly from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.

I admit that I am rebellious. **My sin** is always in front of me. **I have sinned** against you, especially you. I have done what you consider evil. So you hand down justice when you speak, and you are blameless when you judge. **Indeed, I was born guilty. I was a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

Yet, you desire truth and sincerity. Deep down inside me you teach me wisdom. **Purify me from sin with hyssop, and I will be clean. Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**
Psalms 51:1-7 (GW)

Note: The above prayer was made by King David (second king of Israel) unto GOD, as penitence for his sin with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, a soldier in King David's army. This story can be found in the Book of II Samuel chapter 11-12 located within the Hebrew Scriptures [Old Testament].

According to what is written within the fore mentioned chapters, King David had committed adultery with another man's wife and premeditatedly killed the woman's husband, coveted and took that which was not his. All of the sins committed, were not to be done, according to the 10 Commandments (see Exodus chapter 20) of the Most High GOD.

King David had always honored his GOD with praise, thanksgiving and often communicated same via psalms. He was a man that recognized his sins and repented. However something had gone wrong, David was taking too long to recognize his sins and seek GOD's forgiveness. He was taking too long to recognize the grievous error of his way. Of course, the Most High GOD knew of David's sins, and also knew that David needed to repent, so Nathan, the Prophet of GOD, was sent to **warn** David, and steer him back into righteousness (see II Samuel chapter 12).

Nathan, the Prophet gave a **heart rending** story of a certain man that had **one** lamb, and how another man who was rich took the man's only lamb:

So the LORD sent Nathan to David. Nathan came to him and said, "There were two men in a certain city. One was rich, and the other was poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cows, but the poor man had only one little female lamb that he had bought. He raised her, and she grew up in his home with his children. She would eat his food and drink from his cup. She rested in his arms and was like a daughter.

"Now, a visitor came to the rich man. The rich man thought it would be a pity to take one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler. So he took the poor man's lamb and prepared her for the traveler."

Cease to do evil, learn to do well. Isaiah 1:16-17 (KJV)

Wash you, make you clean, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; **cease to do evil, learn to do well.** Seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, and plead for the widow.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. **If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land. If ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword, for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.** Isaiah 1:16-20 (KJV)

Sin is tempting and is usually dressed up in beautifully gift wrapped package. Once opened, and partaken, the end result is death. As for David's story, we are not to criticize or pass judgment, this story is for our benefit, and that is not to fall for the allures of sin. When sin has been committed and sincerely and remorsefully acknowledged, one should immediately seek repentance and ask the LORD to **thoroughly cleanse** the heart, mind and soul and refill the empty places with His Holy Spirit Presence. David stated: **Take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit.**

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Humble thyself

David **burned with anger against the man.** "I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives," he said to Nathan, "**the man who did this certainly deserves to die!** He must pay back four times the price of the lamb because he did this and had no pity." **You are the man!**" Nathan told David."

This is what the LORD GOD of Israel says: I anointed you king over Israel and rescued you from Saul. I gave you your master Saul's house and his wives. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if this weren't enough, I would have given you even more. **Why did you despise my Word by doing what I considered evil?** You had Uriah the Hittite killed in battle. You took his wife as your wife. You used the Ammonites to kill him. So warfare will never leave your house because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

This is what the LORD says: I will stir up trouble against you within your own household, and before your own eyes I will take your wives and give them to someone close to you. He will go to bed with your wives in broad daylight. You did this secretly, but I will make this happen in broad daylight in front of all Israel. **Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."** Nathan replied, **"The LORD has taken away your sin; you will not die, but since you have shown total contempt for the LORD by this affair, the son that is born to you must die."**

Then Nathan went home. The LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had given birth to for David so that the child became sick. David pleaded with GOD for the child; he fasted and lay on the ground all night.

The older leaders in his palace stood beside him to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling, and he wouldn't eat with them. On the seventh day the child died, but David's officials were afraid to tell him that the child was dead.

They thought, "While the child was alive, we talked to him, and he wouldn't listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may harm {himself}." When David saw that his officials were whispering to one another, he realized that the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" David asked them. "{Yes.} he is dead," they answered. II Samuel 12:1-19 (GW)

Note: Nathan the Prophet gave David a heart rending story about a man who had plenty, but desired something that belonged to someone else [coveting]. **After hearing the story, David declared that such a man should die.** Nathan replied that the man was David. Was David shocked, yes! After hearing Nathan's message, David became very penitent regarding his sin against GOD, and (at some point in time) wrote Psalm 51.

Nathan's message was from the Most High GOD. After hearing that he was the man standing in the need of repentance, David's eyes, ears, mind and heart were **completely** opened to actually see, hear, perceive and understand the grievous error of his way.

David was now ready to accept GOD's judgment. David asked that his sin be blotted out and he desired to be cleansed with a spiritual agent as effective as hyssop. It is very clear (Psalm 51) that David did not desire to repeat such a transgression against GOD. Although, GOD did not allow David to die, judgment was meted out against his house.

- 1) What does this psalm tell us about GOD's character?
- 2) How should we respond to our sin and GOD's forgiveness?
- 3) What do you think it means to have a broken and contrite heart?
- 4) In these latter days, how can we come to the Most High GOD, regarding our sins (see John 3:16-18)?

Instead of wallowing in prolonged sorrow, David opted to **open his heart** to the LORD and allow Him to **thoroughly cleanse** him from secret and open sin. David desired to know the LORD's righteousness and live righteously and to teach others the same.

Forgiveness

O LORD out of the depths I call to you. O LORD, hear my voice. Let your ears be open to my pleas for mercy. **O LORD, who would be able to stand, if you kept a record of sins? With you there is forgiveness so that you can be feared.** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and with hope I wait for His Word. My soul waits for the LORD more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. **O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, because with the LORD there is mercy and with Him there is unlimited forgiveness.** He will rescue Israel from all its sins. Psalms 130:1-8 (GW)