

Prayer – Its life challenging! Psalm 51

The journey continues;

- A shared experience – Life with God...
- Thanksgiving and Praise – eyes looking up
- A great companion – God’s mercy, Unfailing love

1. Mirror, mirror...(Verses 1 - 6)

- Three things that need to be faced up to: bad record, compromise, missing the target.
- I have been out of step with my Heavenly Father
 1. For a long time
 2. Since birth!
- What you really long for Father, is truth from the inside out.

2. Forgiveness, Acceptance and Change! (Verses 7 - 17)

- Cleanse me
- Make a fresh start in me
- Use me to help others
- I will make it real

3. My living makes a difference to others (Verses: 18 - 19)

Building sorry into my prayers:

No other gods – what really matters to me?	No idolatry – what gets in the way of God’s best?	No swearing – How has my speech been?	A Sabbath rest – Where am I on a treadmill?	Respect Parents – How am I responding to authority?
No murder – is there hate in my heart?	No adultery - Am I struggling with lust and purity?	No stealing – Am I being honest with things?	No false testimony – Have I lied? Especially about someone.	No covetousness – Am I content with what God has given me.

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Digging Deeper

- God used Nathan to put the spotlight on David's sin. Why did it take an outsider for David to realise what he had done?
- Why do we find it hard to admit when we have messed up?
- Transgression, Iniquity and sin are the three words used by David in verse 1. What sort of wrongs does he mean when he uses these words?
- David begins with God's mercy, unfailing love and compassion, verse 1. What is your 'picture' of God, in what ways does this affect how you deal with your transgressions, iniquities and sins?
- Do you see sin in others more easily than in your own life? Are you quick to criticize and condemn? What are some of the relational benefits that come into our lives if we are more conscious of our sin?
- What is the impact to our relationship with God if we become sin obsessed but do nothing about it? (Verse 8)
- 'Confession without change is just a game' (Tom Harris, I'm ok you're ok) What needs to happen for change to occur in our lives? (verses 7 – 15)
- Sacrifice is a significant theme in verses 16 & 17; what sacrifice do we enjoy? What sacrifice are we called to make?
- Why bother with all the soul searching? (Verses 18 – 19)
- What are the benefits of confession? Matthew 6:12,13

Add confession into your growing prayer time:

I invite and welcome God into my day

I thank you for...

I praise you for being...

Examine my heart and life as I reflect on this commandment...