

# GREATER BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

Dr. Brett Snowden, Pastor

**TOPIC: A CLEAN HEART**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 51**

March 3, 2026

David had sinned. He had taken another man's wife and tried to cover it up with lies and even murder. When the prophet Nathan confronted him, David could have made excuses. Instead, he fell to his knees and cried out to God. Psalm 51 is his prayer of repentance.

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## **A Cry for Mercy**

David begins with a plea:

*"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions" (Psalm 51:1).*

He knows he doesn't deserve forgiveness. He appeals to God's love, not his own goodness. He doesn't try to justify his actions or blame others. He owns his sin fully and throws himself on God's mercy.

Have you ever felt like that? Like you've failed so badly that all you can do is ask for mercy? That's where real repentance begins. Not with excuses. Not by minimizing our sin. But with a broken heart, turn to God.

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## **True Repentance**

David doesn't just want to be forgiven. He wants to be clean.

*"Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51:2).*

He doesn't want a surface-level cleansing. He knows sin goes deep. It stains the soul. It separates us from God. David longs for a fresh start.

Have you ever tried to fix yourself? Tried to be a better person on your own? Sin

is not something we can scrub away with good deeds. Only God can cleanse us completely.

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### **The Joy of Restoration**

David doesn't just ask for forgiveness. He asks for restoration.

*“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).*

He wants a new heart. He doesn't want to fall back into sin. He wants to be strong in his faith. Have you ever felt distant from God because of sin? David did. He prays:

*“Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me” (Psalm 51:11).*

Sin separates. It makes us feel far from God. But His love restores. When we turn back, He welcomes us. He fills us again with His Spirit. He gives us joy in His presence.

*“Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me” (Psalm 51:12).*

God doesn't just forgive. He restores joy! He makes us strong again.

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### **A Heart That Teaches Others**

David doesn't keep his experience to himself. He says:

*“Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you” (Psalm 51:13).*

A cleansed heart overflows. When we experience God's mercy, we want others to know Him too.

Who in your life needs to hear about God's grace? When you've been forgiven, do you share that hope with others?

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## More Than Words

David knows that God isn't after religious rituals. He says:

*“You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise” (Psalm 51:16-17).*

True repentance isn't about going through the motions. It's about a heart that is truly broken over sin. God doesn't reject a heart that humbles itself before Him.

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## Discussion Questions

1. When you sin, do you own it completely, or do you make excuses?
  2. Do you believe that God's mercy is greater than your worst failure?
  3. Are there areas in your life where you need God's cleansing today?
  4. Have you lost the joy of your salvation? Do you need to ask God to restore it?
  5. Who in your life needs to hear about God's grace? How can you share it?
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