**The Quiet Hour #6**

A Clean Heart

**Psalm 51**

The old time preacher was told, “I don’t believe in revival because revivals don’t last!” His response was simple: “I don’t believe in baths either because baths don’t last - so I take one every day!” Whether in the physical or the spiritual realm, “coming clean” is not a once and done experience. Psalms 51 was written as a prayer by King David during a time when he knew he needed to be clean. This prayer can be summed up in the words of verse 10: ***“Create in me a clean heart, O God”***. David had sinned. The account is given in II Samuel 11.

* Read II Sam. 11:2-5. David had taken another man’s wife which was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Read II Sam. 11:14-17. David had taken another man’s life which was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Read II Sam. 11:27. *“But the thing that David had done \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* *\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*

During the next hour, you will be given an opportunity to take a spiritual bath. The combined influences of humility, honesty, confession, and repentance will have a purifying impact on your heart and life. As you begin, take a moment to sing or read through these verses from J. Edwin Orr’s hymn ***Search Me, O God:***

**1.** *Search me O God, and know my heart today, Try me O Savior, know my thoughts I pray,*

*See if there be some wicked way in me,*

*Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.*

**2.** *I praise Thee Lord, for cleansing me from sin;*

*Fulfill Thy Word, and make me pure within,*

*Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;*

*I now surrender, Lord; in me abide*

**3.** *O Holy Ghost, revival comes from Thee,*

*Send a revival – start the work in me,*

*Thy Word declares Thou wilt supply our need;*

*For blessing now, O Lord, I humbly plead.*

**1**

**Praying Scripturally for Personal Revival**

In Psalm 51, David offers a personal and passionate prayer for a reviving work of God in his own life. His prayer contains seven key elements that are essential for a cleansing work of God. As you identify each one, incorporate it into your time of prayer and thanksgiving.

1. The need for MERCY (v. 1)

* *“Have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ upon me, O God…according unto the multitude of Thy tender \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_...”*

David knew what he deserved, but he begged for what he did not deserve – mercy. This plea (*“according unto”*) became the basis of his prayer. The word mercy literally means “to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior.” David first humbled himself before his God, knowing that if he received what he deserved, he would have no hope.

* **Compare**: Lam. 3:22,23
* Take a moment to thank God for the realities of His mercy, not only in personal salvation, but in practical experience.

2. The need for CLEANSING (v. 2, 7, 9-10)

* *“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ***me*** *thoroughly from* ***mine*** *iniquity…”*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ***me*** *from* ***my*** *sin.”*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ***me*** *with hyssop, and I shall be clean…”*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ***me*** *and I shall be whiter than snow.”*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thy face from* ***my*** *sins…”*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all* ***mine*** *iniquities.”*

David had been contaminated and corrupted by his sin, and he needed to be clean. He realized that in the presence of an infinitely holy God he was dirty and defiled. His prayer expresses his desire.

* **Compare**: I John 1:8-10
* Express your desire to God in the words of David: *“Create in me a clean heart, O God…”* (v. 10). Explain to God your desire.

**2**

3. The need for FORGIVENESS (v. 3-5)

* *“Against Thee, Thee only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”*

Though David had sinned with Bathsheba, and against Uriah, his sin was ultimately against God. Rather than blame, justify, or defend his wrongdoing, David sought forgiveness through honest confession. Notice how many times the words *“I…me…my…mine”* appear in the first 15 verse of Ps. 51.

* **Compare**: Prov. 28:13

Steps of Honest Confession

1. Admit all failure

2. Acknowledge all wrongdoing

3. Accept all responsibility

* Which of the following types of sin do you need to confess to God? As God’s Spirit prompts you, be specific and confess.

\_\_\_\_\_ *“presumptuous sins”* (Ps. 19:13)

\_\_\_\_\_ *“sins of my youth”* (Ps. 25:7)

\_\_\_\_\_ *“the sin of (the) mouth”* (Ps. 59:12)

\_\_\_\_\_ *“secret sins”* (Ps. 90:8)

\_\_\_\_\_ *“besetting sin”* (Heb. 12:1)

4. The need for TRUTH (v. 6)

* *“Thou desirest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the inward parts…”*

The very basis for all sin is deception. When a person sins, he does so because he believes a lie about God, the Word of God, and even about himself. It is God’s truth that overcomes the lies of the Devil who himself is the master of deception (John 8:44).

* **Compare**: John 15:3; 17:17
* In prayer, make a commitment to saturate your life with the truth of God’s Word which will have a cleansing effect.

**3**

5. The need for HEALING (v. 8, 10-12)

* *“…that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which Thou has broken may rejoice.”*

David was a broken man, hurting and wounded by the effects of his sin. In this part of his prayer he focuses on **rejoicing** (v.8**), renewal** (v. 10), and **restoration** (v. 12). Revival is the work of God which “again” allows a man to experience the full blessing of his relationship with God.

* **Compare**: Eph. 4:22-24
* Allow yourself to recall how it “once was” in your relationship with God. Ask God to “do it again”, to make you like new once more.

6. The need for FREEDOM (v. 14)

* *“…deliver me from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_...”*

David said in verse three, *“…my sin is ever before me.”* His life was haunted by guilt which like a “nasty hangover” plagued him continually. He sought relief and release from this miserable condition.

* **Compare**: Ps. 130:3,4
* Claim for yourself that the past is the past, and that today is the first day of the rest of your life!

7. The need for PRAISE (v. 14, 15)

* *“…my tongue shall \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_...”*
* *“…open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth Thy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*

There is nobody more thrilled and excited than a person who is right with God and right with others. A testimony of praise will fill the heart and the mouth of a revived individual because of what God has done.

* **Compare**: Ps. 85:6
* Using Ps. 32:1,2, thank the Lord for the cleansing and forgiveness that He has granted in your life. Conclude with verse 11.

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