

Psalm 51.1-12

Four things David did when his sin was exposed:

A. He casts himself upon God for mercy

3 different phrases to plead for mercy:

"have mercy on me"	(re: a favor one does not deserve to have)
"according to your unfailing love"	(re: help for the helpless)
"according to your great compassion"	(re: tender mercies from a mother's heart)

B. He prays to God for divine cleansing

3 different words to convey depth of his sin:

"transgression"	(re: a breach of trust)
"iniquity"	(re: twisting something straight until it is crooked)
"sin"	(re: falling short of a standard)

3 corresponding words to seek purging from sin:

"blot out"	(re: to wipe clean)
"wash away"	(re: laundering dirty clothes with lye)
"cleanse me"	(re: purifying a stained conscience)

C. He acknowledges his impotence to deal with sin

The truly repentant...

- does not blame someone else
- knows sin has ongoing consequences
- knows his actions have deeply pained God
- submits to God's punishment
- trusts God to deliver because he is impotent

D. He prays to God renewal and a new beginning

- joy and gladness again, v 8
- pure heart and steadfast spirit, v 10
- presence of Holy Spirit, v 11
- restoring joy of salvation, v 12
- then I will teach transgressors, v 13

Conclusion