

# 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:

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| "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:

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|-----------------|---|
| "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:

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|--------------|---|
| "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*