

# "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

# PSALM 51

## Psalm 51

Psalm fifty-one is a prayer of confession of the greatest of Israel's kings, King David, a man after God's own heart. It is to be read with its companion psalm, psalm thirty-two, which is a praise song of cleansing, after confession and repentance. The psalm was written as a heartfelt cry of David's great sin of adultery, murder, cover up and the death of an innocent child, and the guilt of shame that was brought to the Kingdom of Israel because of his actions. It was overwhelming.

This psalm is a paradigm for all those who have lived since its penning. David takes full responsibility for his attitude that led to his actions. Thought always precedes attitudes and attitudes always precede actions. Actions left alone, unrepentant will lead to habits that lead to character imbedding that will ruin any life. David's prayer reveals his heart. He begs God for mercy (*chesed*). He immediately put his finger on the issue with the three words he used for sin. He names the problem. He has transgressed. The word is Hebrew, *pesha*, and is used to describe someone who steps over a line. Someone who goes beyond the boundaries set. David's sin was not ignorance, but willful. He had written the very words of God and they hung

around his neck. Chapter one opens written them with his own hand, as Moses had instructed future kings to do. He stepped over God's line. He needed cleansing, washing from his iniquity; Hebrew, *avon*, meaning to twist or pervert. David had sinned and then tried to act like he didn't and cover it up. God sees it all. David confessed therefore that he needed to be made clean or forgiven of his sin, Hebrew "*chattah*" This is the word for "missing the intended mark." David fell short of God's best for his life when he stepped over the line of God's law, took another man's wife, killed the man, and acted like nothing had happened. God sees it all. One thing led to another. Sin always make you pay a higher price than you thought you would pay. David was a broken man. Thank God this was not the end for David and if you have sinned greatly, it is not the end for you. Turn to God and confess. He will forgive you.

### Prayer and Action Steps

*What we cover, God will uncover. What we uncover (confess) He will cover. God, thank you for your forgiveness.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

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What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

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Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

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Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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