



Perfecting Prayer: Prayer of Repentance

Are You a Man or Woman after God's own Heart?

Psalm 51

How is it that David is called a man after God's own heart?

While talking to David's son Solomon,
God says; "**Now if you walk before
Me as your father David walked, in**

**integrity of heart and in uprightness...then I will
establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever
as I promised David your father.**" (1 Kings 9:4-5)

This was **AFTER** David used his power to seduce a woman named Bathsheba while her husband was at war on King David's behalf. When she was found to be with his child, David arranged for her husband Uriah to be killed in battle to cover up the matter.

- David was an adulterer and a murderer.
- Is this a man after God's own heart?

Yes: God says that David is. When God was directing Samuel the prophet to anoint a new king over Israel after he had rejected Saul, he told Samuel; "**For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.**"

(1 Samuel 16:7) So despite his sin, God loved David's heart. I believe that we have a glimpse into that heart which God so treasured when we read **Psalm 51** which is a prayer of repentance. That psalm is truly one of the great prayers of the Bible.

Psalm 51 is marked by true characteristics of repentance such as:

- Appeal to the mercy of God
- Honesty
- Understanding of the severity of sinning against God
- No excuses or justification
- Desire to reform
- Recognition that forgiveness is not deserved but by grace alone

As you read and re-read Psalm 51, what do you find you identify with the most? Is there a hidden sin that you need to repent of with the same heart David had? Do you find you haven't been completely honest with God? Are you willing to accept the deep cleansing David desired? Do you need to have the joy of God's salvation restored to you? Do you desire to have your testimony of God's grace touch the lives of others?

We can be men and women after God's own heart. Repentance is the entryway. **Come, enter in.**

Yada-Yada-Yada

Prov 3:5-6; Psalm 51

A. Maintaining Yada

*"In all your ways acknowledge
Him, and He shall direct
your paths."* Prov 3:6

1. The word 'acknowledge' is the Hebrew word "yada." The basic meaning of yada is 'know.' Everything from observation to the highest level of intimacy (Adam knew Eve).

2. Maintaining yada according to this Proverb means to know God and the intimacy of His presence.

B. Broken Yada

1. When our relationship with God is broken through sin—we are distanced from the 'yada' or presence of God. I can no longer KNOW (experience) the complete will of God in my life.

2. A key aspect of David's repentance from sin was to 'acknowledge' [yada] his transgression [rebellion] (vs :3) By acknowledging his sin—David was admitting to the broken 'yada' [presence] of God.

3. Much of Psalm 51 is an expression of that brokenness and separation from God.

C. Steps to recovering Yada

The process of Psalm 51

1. Cry for mercy
2. Acknowledgment of sin 1-2
3. Accept God's deep work 3-4
4. Communion-cleansing 7-8
5. Renewal 10-11
6. Restoration 12-13
7. Deliverance 14-19