

Psalm 51: Confidence

Read Psalm 51:6-9

The psalmist has just confessed his sin completely, honestly, and openly, with no minimizing and no excuses. He has declared God to be thoroughly right and just in condemning him.

So how surprising is the bold confidence he displays in vv.6-8:

- “God, you want us to have truth in the very core of our innermost being, and I know you can do that in me! You can fill even the hidden corners of my heart with Your wisdom” (v.6, para.).
- “If you purify me, I will indeed be completely clean” (v.7a, para.). Hyssop was a plant used in various cleansing rituals, such as in the cleansing of leprosy (Leviticus 14:4).
- “If you wash me, I will be whiter than snow” (v.7b, para.).
- “You can fill me again with joy and gladness” (v.8a, para.).
- “Though I am crushed and broken, You can make me whole again! You can turn my mourning to rejoicing!” (v.8b, para.).

The psalmist returns to words from the opening verses of the psalm, “Wash me” (vv.2a & 7b) and “Blot out” (vv.1b, 9b). But his desperate, urgent begging now rings with a confident assurance.

Did you know that no matter what your sin, no matter how unworthy you are (and you ARE unworthy!), you can come before your holy God and boldly ask for His undeserved mercy?

*“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.
(Proverbs 28:13, NASB)*

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9, NASB)

We can boldly trust His mercy and grace, even when we have no confidence in ourselves.

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