

**GODLY REPENTANCE; THE EXCLUSIVE
PATH FOR GREAT SINNERS TO MAGNIFY THE GREATER FORGIVER!**

Psalms: The Songbook of the Soul

Psalm 51

I. INTRODUCTION

Three directional markers led David, a great sinner, back onto the path of The Great Forgiver. (Read *Psalm 51*)

II. DIRECTIONAL MARKERS WHICH TURNED DAVID BACK TO THE PATH.

1. Turn back to God!

The acronym, "YBH?" stands for "Yes, but how?" (From Wayne Mack)

a) David recognized his lost condition.

This is seen by three repeated words which David used in *Psalm 51*.

1. Transgression – David had stepped across God's loving boundaries and breached their relationship.

2. Iniquity (s) – The TWOT identifies this as an, "...overwhelming trait of man's character and actions...doing away with the fear of God." This issues forth in twisting, distorting, perverting, or deviating from God's way.

3. Sin – David knew that before a holy God that he had "missed the mark or way" (TWOT).

b) David remembered God's character.

1. God's love is steadfast. The word is ***steadfast love*** in the ESV, ***lovingkindness*** in the NASB & NKJV, and is translated ***unfailing love*** in the NIV. The meaning of the word, "hessed" is captured in the account of Hosea and Gomer in the book of *Hosea*.

2. God is overflowing in mercy. David humbly appealed to God's generosity and asked him to stretch His hand out in dispensing undeserved favor, grace, and kindness to him, a most pitiful man.

2. **Take personal responsibility for deviating from the trail!**

a) David thought correctly about himself.

David looked deeper than the acts themselves into the very core of his nature and he confessed that he was a sinner from the point of his conception. The TWOT says, "This sense of guilt expressed by the Psalmist does not indicate any blemish on *his mother* but expresses the doctrine we call original sin." Calvin says David is "aggravating his guilt, acknowledging that he had not contracted this or that sin for the first time lately, but had been born into the world with the seed of every iniquity."

b) David thought correctly about his God.

God is merciful, steadfast in love, abundant in mercy, can blot out transgressions, can wash iniquity, can cleanse sin, is justified in words, blameless in judgment, delights in truth in the inward being, teaches wisdom in the secret heart, purges and washes thoroughly, restores joy, gladness and broken bones, hides His face from sins, blots out iniquities, creates clean hearts, can remove the Holy Spirit's anointing, can restore the joy of salvation, is righteous, praiseworthy, does not delight in external hypocritical worship, is looking for sacrifice of a broken spirit, will not despise a broken and contrite heart, can and does do good to Zion and builds up Jerusalem, delights in right sacrifices, burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings.

3. **Follow the trail marker leading to renewal and worship!**

a) Individually

b) Corporately

III. CURRENT TRAILMARKERS FOR US, THE WOMEN OF BCLR

1. **Turn back to God!**

2. **Take personal responsibility for deviating from the trail!**

3. **Follow the trail markers leading to renewal and worship!**