

## PSALM 51: REPENTANCE



A harp (**Psalms**) with strings grouped showing **51** is crying in **repentance**.

+ For the devout believer Psalm 51 should strike us as both one of the most disturbing and most comforting chapters of the Bible. It is uncomfortable to admit that the sin within us has the potential to devastate us and those around us. No one, aside from our dear Lord Jesus, is untouchable, able to say they could never commit a sin on the scale of adultery or murder. However, it is heartening that the Almighty is so merciful as to forgive even such violations of his law.

+ David had changed over the years from the meek, but confident shepherd boy into a powerful and popular leader of a nation. In the process his ego ballooned and his pride was lifted up. It is impossible for a person who has had such success not to be affected, not to change in the process. David showed signs of being drunk with power; he took another man's wife, schemed to get himself off the hook when she told him she was pregnant, and then plotted the other man's murder. How can a person slide so much in regards to their morality? Fame and wealth are two variables that can negatively impact a person's soul. It is quite possible to march *upward* in terms of one's social standing, while sliding *downward* into a moral cesspool.

+ Repentance is quite painful, but also therapeutic! King David's plea is so intense that you can imagine his voice and see his tears. Only when we "fess up," and admit all our guilt can the wound of sinful action be cleansed and healing begin.

+ One of the reasons David was described by the Lord as, "... a man after my own heart" (Acts 13:22), was for his zeal in repentance. David was crushed by his guilt, and he plead earnestly with the Lord for clemency. He knew that God had a right to condemn him, and he agonized over how far he had fallen from the will of God. We also should be quick to recognize and repent of our sin. If we are mired in sin and a loving individual confronts us about it – privately or publicly – we should admit our guilt and plead for forgiveness. Denial can only temporarily suspend the consequences of the sin.