

The Prayer of a Contrite Heart

Psalm 51

God's word affirms the contrite heart

- 1.** The contrite plea for forgiveness according to the nature of God (1-2)

- 2.** The contrite acknowledge human sinfulness against God's holiness (3-6)

- 3.** The contrite long for the joy of renewed innocence (7-9)

- 4.** The contrite desire renewed power to walk in God's ways (10-12)

- 5.** The contrite commit to sing God's praises again (13-17)

- 6.** The contrite are concerned for the people of God (18-19)

For Further Study and Reflection

- *Baptism and Fullness* by John Stott
- *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund
- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- *Valley of Vision* by Arthur Bennett
- *The Common Book of Prayer*
- *Invitation to the Psalms* by Rolf A. Jacobson and Karl N. Jacobson
- *Classic Commentary of the Psalms* by Derek Kidner

Small Group Questions:

1. What did you learn from the sermon about this Psalm and its setting that you did not know prior?
2. Why is it better that David appeals to the nature of God for his forgiveness, than for his track record? How is that instructive for us? Do you ever find yourself bargaining with God in prayer? Why or why not?
3. In what ways are the Psalms instructive for us?
4. How can the believer use this Psalm as a guide for their own repentance and reception of forgiveness?
5. What section of this Psalm should not be used strictly by the New Testament Christian? In what way is our situation superior to that of David's?