



## 1. Run to His Mercy (vs. 1-2)

David cries out to God with urgency — not when things calm down, but when the truth is finally out. He uses language of desperation: blot out, wash me, cleanse me. But not everyone who says “I have sinned” is truly repenting. Saul said it and kept going. Judas said it and walked away. David is different: he doesn’t just ask for the record to be erased — he asks for the sinner to be remade.

### *Application Questions*

- When you have done something wrong, is your first instinct to go to God — or to manage it on your own first?
- What is the difference between asking for forgiveness and asking to be changed?
- Can you identify a moment of genuine brokenness before God versus a moment where you were simply sorry you got caught?

## 2. See Your Sin Clearly (vs. 3-6)

David says “I know” — not “I’ve been told,” not “you might think.” He owns it completely, and he names it against God specifically, acknowledging that whatever punishment he receives, God is justified. He goes even deeper: God desires truth in the secret heart — the hidden place no one else can see, where your real beliefs and actual motivations live.

### *Application Questions*

- What does it mean to sin “against God” even when another person was hurt?
- Is there something in your secret heart right now that you have been keeping locked away from God?
- How does it change your view of repentance to know that God is not asking for a cleaned-up exterior, but access to the place you keep hidden?

## 3. Ask God to Cleanse You (vs. 7-12)

David asks to be purged with hyssop — the ceremonial branch used to declare a healed leper clean and restored to community. But he also asks the broken bones themselves to rejoice: not after restoration, but in the middle of the breaking. And finally he asks for a willing spirit — not the obligatory offering, but the freewill offering. Not “I should.” But “I want to.”

### *Application Questions*

- What would it look like for you to bring your brokenness to God instead of waiting until you feel cleaned up?
- Have you ever noticed your worship or service becoming performance or obligation — going through the motions without the wanting? What happened?
- Is there an area where you need God to restore not just forgiveness, but the wanting back?



## 4. Tell Your Story Boldly (vs. 13–19)

Once restored, David's first instinct is to teach other transgressors the way back. God doesn't just forgive us for our sake — he redeems our story so it becomes useful to others. The thing you were most ashamed of may be the very credential God uses to reach someone else. The sacrifice God wants is not performance or penance. A broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart. That is what he will not despise.

### *Application Questions*

- Is there someone in your life who needs to hear what God has done in you — not a cleaned-up version, but the real story?
- What would it mean for your brokenness to become a credential instead of a liability?
- What is one step you could take this week toward greater honesty — with God, with yourself, or with someone else?