

## **LIFESONGS: SONGS TO LIVE BY**

### Lesson 2: Create in Me a Clean Heart

**Create in me a clean heart, O God  
And renew a right spirit within me  
Cast me not away  
From Thy presence, O Lord  
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation  
And renew a right spirit within me**

#### PART 1: THE SONG

What is the background to this song and does it make the song more meaningful?

The song comes from Psalm 51 where David is writing after his affair with Bathsheba. I think the song/scripture is incredibly meaningful to my life because it gives me somewhere to turn when I mess up. It is a great expression of how a repentant heart comes back to the Lord.

Why is David concerned with being cast away from the presence of the Lord? Have you ever felt this way?

It seems like his guilt has led him to believe that God is going to remove David from his presence. In other words, David is praying for God not to leave him alone. Many times when I sin I feel all alone. David expresses how I want to be closer to God, but seem to be drifting farther away from him.

In this song of prayer, what would you write as a second verse?

After being made right with God through the repentance in this song, I would add a verse of dedication. Being renewed by God would be the next step to take after being reconciled to him.

Create in me a pure heart, O God  
And help me only trust in you  
Come unto thee all who are weary  
And take all these burdens from me  
Restore all the weary by your gentle spirit  
And you will give rest unto me

#### PART 2: THE POINT

This is a prayer song. David prayed these words through his writing in Psalm 51. It is an excellent model for a prayer of repentance. It shows us several things that identify a repentant heart.

Verse 10: David is asking God to get rid of his evil desires and help him re-dedicate his life to God.

- The desire to stop sinning comes before we repent of our sins.

Verse 11: Here David is petitioning the Lord to keep him close by and have the Holy Spirit remain on him.

- We want to be close to God after we mess up instead of hiding from him.

Verse 12: To remember what it was like to rejoice in the Lord's saving power and have the desire that comes from within driving you to do what's right, David asks.

- We find joy in God's ability to save us and help us remain pure.

### PART 3: THE LIFE

The repentant heart is identified by these three things:

1. The desire to stop sinning comes before we repent of our sins.
2. We want to be close to God after we mess up instead of hiding from him.
3. We find joy in God's ability to save us and help us remain pure.

From this song, you learn what it means to be repentant. Reading the passage from 2 Corinthians below, you will see that God has given us reconciliation through Christ and doesn't count our sins against us. However, we must be in Christ for this to be true. Paul goes on to write "we implore you...be reconciled to God." What that means is that you repent and come back to him.

Let your LIFE be one of repentance and not running away. If you are to take the words of this song and live by them, you will readily admit when you sin and run towards God for help and he will forgive you.

### **Psalm 51:9-13**

Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.  
Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will turn back to you.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.