

Since this is Day One, our prayer focus will be on getting our heart right before God through confession and repentance. We cannot expect God to act favorably in response to our prayers if our hearts are not right before Him.

Our scripture reading is:

2 CHRONICLES 16:9 *For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.*

PSALM 66:18 *If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*

ISAIAH 55:6-7 *Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*

1 JOHN 1:8-9 *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

The scripture we will be praying today is:

PSALM 51:1-13

*Read through this passage reflectively and then pray it, putting your name in the place of David's.

PSALM 51:1-13 *Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. 4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. 5 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. 6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. 7 Purify me with hyssop**, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. 9 Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.*

— In the blessed name of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen

* It's generally agreed by Bible scholars that this is a reference to human depravity; that is, we are all born with a sin nature.

** Hyssop was a plant that was used by the priests in the temple to dip into blood and sprinkle it on something in order to cleanse it. In light of the New Testament testimony, it is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all sin (**1 John 1:7** *...the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin*). So, this is an Old Testament prefiguring of the work of Christ and the sufficiency of His blood to cleanse all believers from their sin. In the context of this prayer for use today, we are appealing to God on the basis of the sacrificial blood of Christ as the source and foundation of our forgiveness. His blood cleanses from the guilt and consequences of our sin. Nothing else can. We are praying that God would purify us by applying the merits of the blood of Christ to us.

This concludes today's prayer. If you have prayed this prayer sincerely, then you should be ready for the spiritual warfare we're about to engage in tomorrow.