

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 1



“Lifted Up”

Study: John 3:9-15

Reading: Numbers 21:1-9, John 19:38-42

Memory: Psalm 51:13

Several years ago my wife and I were preparing for an upcoming trip to Greece and Turkey. We chose to watch several videos about those countries and the places that we planned to visit. One of the themes that kept coming up was how the ancient Greek and Roman people worshiped many different gods. We started to realize they had a god for everything – fertility, the sea, nature, safety, etc. As I thought about this, I remembered being at a restaurant and seeing a prayer to St. Brendan, who was the saint of the sea. I started thinking about other “saints” I had heard of and how people pray to different saints based on what they need help for. The parallel between the Greek gods (many other cultures did the same) and the prayers to saints started to open my eyes to the great deception Satan has over men as he deceives them into being engrossed in their man made religions.

Today, we are going to see how Nicodemus was a teacher of the religious law, but did not really understand what God’s plan was. We will see how He was involved in a man-made, works based religion and how Jesus was attempting to get Him to see His need to believe in what God said and was doing rather than what was taught by men.

What Does the Bible Say?

The teaching of Jesus on the new birth was fascinating to Nicodemus, but very hard to understand since he had grown up as a Pharisee and was deeply involved in a works based religion. He was a teacher of the Law, but did not understand the Law enough to realize how he could be a part of the kingdom of God. He had limited understanding of God’s plan since they placed such an emphasis on doing and following their man made laws. Nicodemus had a hard time understanding the earthly analogy of the new birth and therefore would not be able to understand the heavenly message that Jesus was teaching. No one had ever gone up into heaven and returned, but Jesus had brought heaven down to this earth to explain the way of God to man. Jesus was speaking of what He knew best about, and

He had perfect knowledge of the heavenly plan for all men (vs 9-13).

Jesus described Himself as the “Son of Man” in verses 13 & 14 which goes back to the picture given in John 1:50-51. It pictures Jesus being the bridge between God and man. It was the way Jesus described Himself as being the Son of God in a human body. He was God, sent to earth to reveal to us God’s plan. That plan was that He would be lifted up just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. This was a reference to Numbers 21 where the Israelites complained about God leading them in the wilderness. After repeated complaints, God sent poisonous snakes into the camp to strike the Israelites, causing many of them to be sick and die. The people had a chance to find relief and have their lives spared if they would look at the bronze serpent which Moses placed on a pole, erected for all to see. Those who looked at the bronze serpent were healed and did not die. Jesus was relating how He was going to be like that serpent and those who looked on Him and believed on Him would live and have everlasting life. Jesus was already predicting His death, though this was some two to three years before it happened. These words must have come back to Nicodemus as He saw Jesus dying on the cross and we know by His actions after the death of Jesus that he did believe (vs 14-15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you have an understanding of religion, or do you understand the real teachings of the Son of Man? Millions of people die in their sin thinking that their religion will spare them from eternal damnation. This is because they trust in a system that is often based on man’s opinions or thoughts mixed in with ideas of God. They have just enough Bible for people to think it is true, but mix in just enough of man’s opinions to distort the message and direct them toward an eternity in hell. The Pharisees were the most religious people there were in that day and they took extra effort and care to follow the letter of the Law, but they missed the main point of the Law. You can do the same today and take care to try to obey God and do what the Bible says is right and, at the same time, miss the whole meaning of the Word of God. God does not just want action, but He wants you to believe in your heart. That is why the concept of believing is repeated many times in John 3. You must believe in God’s plan and God’s way rather than attempting to earn salvation by your own good deeds. This was not a new concept to the Israelites, but was repeated many times in the Old Testament as God challenged them to believe in His Word and follow with their hearts rather than just giving Him outward acts of worship.

What did Jesus just tell Nicodemus about (vs 1-8)?

What did Nicodemus ask God (vs 9)?

Why do you think he had a hard time understanding?

What did Jesus point out about the position of Nicodemus (vs 10)?

What point did Jesus make (vs 10)?

How have you seen people who are very knowledgeable about their religion miss the mark when it comes to biblical Christianity?

Why do you think Jesus began what He was about to say with the phrase “Truly, truly” (vs 11 - ESV)?

****This was a phrase that emphasized that the listeners should pay attention and believe since Jesus was declaring a truth that was contradictory to the beliefs of many in that day.*

What was Jesus speaking about (vs 11)?

Why do you think He used the term “we” (vs 11)?

****This is most likely a reference back to verse 2 where Jesus described how He was sent from God. The “we” was a reference to what God had said in the Old Testament and what He was affirming now.*

What did Jesus declare about the people (vs 11)?

What did Jesus say in verse 12? Why do you think He said this?

What did Jesus make clear (vs 13)?

What did Jesus say was going to happen to Him (vs 14)?

What would those who believe in Jesus have (vs 15)?

How was this similar to the event of the serpent in the OT (vs 14-15)?

“Coming to the Light”

Study: John 3:16-21

Reading: I John 1:1-10, John 15:18-27

Memory: Psalm 51:13

One of the family games my children enjoyed playing was sardines. Once my youngest was finally old enough not to be afraid of the dark, we really had fun with this game. We would shut off almost all the lights in the house and one of us would hide somewhere in the house. The object for the rest of the family was to search for the person who was hiding and hide with them. The hardest part about this game was that we did it in complete darkness, which made it very hard to find the person who hid and made for hours worth of fun, especially during the long winter nights.

Today, we are going to see how darkness hides and how light reveals. Jesus came to bring light so that people could see their sin and see their need for a Savior.

What Does the Bible Say?

Jesus was going to be lifted up like the serpent in the wilderness because of the great love that God had for the world. This love was seen by God choosing to send His only Son into the world to allow anyone in the world who trusts in Him to inherit eternal life. Jesus didn't come into the world to reveal the great sinfulness of man and cause them to be condemned to hell, but He came into the world to deliver them from an eternity of damnation. Jesus came to save the world and deliver them from the condemnation that sin has caused. Man is born a sinner and is headed towards condemnation without Christ. Jesus came to provide a way of deliverance for all men (John 3:16-18).

Though it seems obvious that all men would accept this salvation, that was not the case, nor is it the case today. This is because most men love darkness rather than light. They love living in their evil deeds and don't want to turn from their evil. Their pride and stubbornness keep them from coming to the Lord and they choose to reject Him. People don't even like getting close to Christ because the closer they get, the greater their sin appears. This is because light reveals the dirt and grime that is in the hearts of men and most people don't like to see that light (vs 19-20).

On the other hand, there are a group of people who clearly recognize their sin and their need for a Savior. They are willing to let the light shine upon their lives to show them their wicked ways and once they see that, they repent of it. They experience the great love and cleansing power that God has to offer through His Son and they become children of God in this life and for all eternity (vs 21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you let your life come to the light so that your sin can be exposed? Many people like the idea of the love of God and how God had offered eternal life, but they don't necessary like the idea of salvation. This is because a person must realize that they are drowning in their sin before they can see their need to be saved. Most people do not want to think they are bad enough to need a Savior. Many believers get this way after their initial salvation as well. They realized they needed Him for salvation, but they don't realize how much they need Him in their daily lives. One of the best ways to live is to be constantly moving towards the light so that you can constantly see the areas where you need to repent and turn to Him. Though this is very humbling, it is also very refreshing and the best way to live your life on this earth. Remember that God is looking out for your good and that is why He wants you to go to the light and repent of your sin. When you see your sin and choose to turn from it, you will find the joy that all men are seeking for in this life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for His great love for you.*
- * *Ask God to help you continually be moving towards the light.*
- * *Praise Jesus because He came to be your Savior.*

Thought for the day

What had Jesus just finished declaring to Nicodemus (vs 9-15)?

What does verse 16 reveal about the love of God?

What will happen to those who believe in Jesus (vs 16)?

What do you think it means to “perish” (vs 16)?

Why do you think that this is one of the most popular verses in the Bible?

What was Jesus not sent to the world for (vs 17)?

Why do you think it is important to understand this?

Why was Jesus sent (vs 17)?

How can Jesus help a person believe in God (vs 17)?

What do you think it meant to “believe” according to the context of this passage?

What will not happen to the person who believes (vs 18)?

What happens to those who fail to believe (vs 18)?

Why do you think it is important to understand that non-believers are already condemned (vs 18)?

****No one is born a believer. We are all born condemned.*

Why do many people reject Jesus (vs 19)?

What keeps men from coming to Jesus (vs 20)?

What will be evident in the lives of those who truly believe (vs 21)?

****Scripture makes it clear that good works cannot save you, but only a belief in God can save you. Yet, it also makes clear that when you do truly believe in God, that belief will be evident by the actions you do. These thoughts are very closely related but, at the same time, completely different.*

“He Must Increase”

Study: John 3:22-36

Reading: Hebrews 11:32-30, I Corinthians 3:1-15

Memory: Psalm 51:13

I heard a story that was told by the pastor of a very large church of a few thousand people. He described how every Sunday on his way to his church he would pass a very small church of like faith that would have a handful of cars in the parking lot each Sunday. He described how he knew the pastor of the small church and every time he saw that pastor, the pastor of the small church told him that his small church was praying that God would bless the larger church. This impacted the pastor of the large church in a great way as he knew that thousands of people passed by this little small church to attend his but there was no jealousy from the small church. In great humility, and as a way to say thank you for the small church’s prayers, the pastor of the large church told the pastor of the small church that anytime he was going on vacation and needed a guest speaker, he would be honored and humbled to fill the pulpit.

What Does the Bible Say?

Jesus had gained a small following because of his teaching and ministry in Jerusalem. He traveled out into the Judean country side to the Jordan River where He started to baptize those who believed in Him. John the Baptist was also still baptizing people and was baptizing them in a spot that was north of Jesus. The exact spot of Aenon and Salim is not known because there are two possible locations. Both locations have springs which allow for plenty of water as described in the passage. Jesus and John were now both baptizing believers (vs 22-24).

John’s disciples and a Jew entered into a small dispute about the purification process. In this dispute, the Jew must have brought up some things that caused some questions in the minds of John’s disciples. One of the greatest concerns that their eyes were open to was the fact that Jesus started baptizing and many people were going to Jesus to be baptized instead of to John. Without a tinge of jealousy, John responded by reminding them that he was not the Christ, but the one who was to come before the Christ. He then illustrated his point by picturing Jesus as the groom and himself as one of the groomsmen. As a groomsman, John

realized that the wedding was not about him and the people were not there to celebrate him. His job was to direct attention to the groom and to rejoice at the coming of the groom. John wanted Jesus to increase, knowing full well that his ministry would decrease. He realized this was his lot in life and he wanted to accept it with joy. He wanted Jesus to be exalted because Jesus was the Christ (vs 25-30).

John went on to tell his follower that Jesus was above all because He was not from this earth. Jesus was from the heavenly realm, but John was just from this earth and was subject to the great power that came from the throne of God. Though Jesus was God and bore witness directly from God, the majority of men did not believe on Him. Whoever chose to believe that Jesus was the Son of God, the same person was also affirming His belief in God. Jesus was there to speak the very words of God and, through the power of the Spirit, was drawing many people into fellowship with God. Whoever chose to believe in the Son was also choosing to believe in the Father. Those who did believe would escape eternal damnation and would receive eternal life (vs 31-36).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you seek power, prestige, or a higher position than others around you, or do you accept the position that God has placed you in? It is easy for you to say that you don't want any glory for yourself, but it is often harder to live that out when you are faced with real situations. John could have easily become jealous at the ministry of Jesus, but his attitude was completely opposite. He was joyous that others were turning to Jesus, realizing that Jesus could help them so much better than he could. This is a great lesson for individuals, groups and churches. It is so easy to get bothered when someone seems to be more successful than you, even though you may put in just as much effort as they do. This especially happens among churches as some churches blossom and grow while other churches struggle to make it. It is easy for the strugglers to become jealous and start to criticize the church that is growing but much harder for the struggling church to rejoice in the growth of another church, especially when that church is just down the road. The same can happen in your workplace, neighborhood and even among family members. When you feel jealousy starting to take over in any area of your life, just remember John and how he handled this issue. Remember that life is not about you, but it is about the bridegroom and you are just there to do your part in any way possible to lift up the Groom.

Why was Jesus in Judea at that time (Jn 2:23)?

What did Jesus start doing (vs 22)?

What does this reveal to you about the importance of baptism?

Why was John also baptizing in the region (vs 23)?

What did John clarify about John the Baptist (vs 24)?

What discussion came up between John's disciples and a religious leader (vs 25)?

****This probably had something to do with the fact that John and his disciples had a much stricter view of the law than Jesus and his disciples.*

What did the disciples of John begin to question him about (vs 26)?

****Most likely the discussion with the Jew began to stir up some conflict in the minds of John's disciples causing them to view Jesus as a competitor.*

What do you think John meant in verse 27?

Why do you think John described himself as the "friend of the bridegroom" (vs 28-29)?

What powerful statement did John make in verse 30?

How can you live this out in your life?

What did John recognize about Jesus (vs 31)?

What did John declare about those who believed what Jesus said (vs 32-33)?

What did John make clear about the words of Jesus (vs 34)?

What did John affirm about Jesus (vs 35)?

How did John emphasize the importance of believing in Jesus (vs 36)?

“Moving On”

Study: Matthew 4:12, Mark 1:14-15, Luke 3:19-20, 4:14, John 4:1-4

Reading: II Kings 17:1-41

Memory: Psalm 51:13



What Does the Bible Say?

The Pharisees had been somewhat concerned about John the Baptist, but when they found out that Jesus was baptizing more than John, they became very concerned. John the apostle does make it clear that it was not Jesus Himself who did the baptizing, but His disciples. This started to stir up anger and problems among the Pharisees, but they weren't the only concern of Jesus as this time (John 4:1-2).

Herod Antipas was of great concern to Jesus because he had John the

Baptist put into prison. Herod Antipas was the ruler over Galilee and Perea and was involved in some evil acts, including stealing the wife of his brother. John spoke out against this and the other evils that Antipas had been committing which caused Antipas to arrest him and have him thrown into prison (Luke 3:19-20). After John was arrested, Jesus stopped baptizing and went up to the region of Galilee. We are not sure if Jesus feared he would be put into prison because He would be associated with John or if John's arrest signaled the time that God had planned for Him to start His Galilean ministry. (By saying that Jesus "feared" I am not saying that He didn't trust God. I am just referring to the idea that He knew it was not His time to die yet and so He wanted to avoid any actions that might cause a premature arrest.)

Jesus left Judea and headed up to Galilee where He began His northern ministry and where He did many miraculous works (Matthew 4:12, Mark 1:14, Luke 4:14). Jesus did not travel the normal way to Galilee though. He had been baptizing along the Jordan River so the obvious route north would have been to stay along the Jordan river all the way up to Galilee, but instead, He purposely chose to go through the heart of Samaria. This was something that the Jews did not normally do since they viewed the Samaritans as dogs and infidels. The Samaritans were a mixed group of people who were descendants of the Assyrians and many other nations. When Assyria destroyed the northern tribes of Israel in 722 B.C. they sent people from their land and other lands that they had conquered to repopulate the region. Some of these intermarried with scattered pockets of Jews creating a mixture of Jews and non-Jews. Many of the people kept some of the traditions of the Jews and still worshiped God, though doing it in their own way. Even in Israel today, there is a small group of people who are Samaritans and claim that they are the real children of God. They follow much of the Old Testament (even practicing animal sacrifices), but emphasize Jews are not the true children of God but the Samaritans are. The Jews in the days of Jesus would not even travel through the area of Samaria because it was corrupt and unclean in their eyes. It is very significant that Jesus chose to travel this way (John 4:3-4).

Thought for the day

John 4:1-4

What did Jesus learn (vs 1)?

Why do you think the Pharisees would have had a problem with this (vs 1)?

****The religious leaders of the day thought that everything religious had to go through them. They wanted to be in control of the people and they did not want any outside teachers cutting in on their “turf.” They were concerned about power, prestige and wealth, and if the people started following other religious teachers, they would lose out on much of that.*

Why do you think John made it clear that Jesus didn’t do the actual baptizing (vs 2)?

****In 1 Corinthians 1:14-16, Paul was thankful he only personally baptized a few followers. This was because he knew the tendency of people to boast about the person who baptized them. Perhaps this is why Jesus did not baptize people but had his disciples do it.*

Where did Jesus travel to (vs 3)?

How did He choose to get there (vs 4)?

****We will read more about the significance of this tomorrow.*

Luke 3:19-20

Why did John the Baptist reprove Herod Antipas (vs 19)?

Why do you think John spoke out against this evil?

What did Herod Antipas choose to do (vs 20)?

Mark 1:14-15

When did Jesus choose to travel back into Galilee (vs 14)?

What was the continual message that Jesus preached (vs 15)?

What do you think He meant by “The time is fulfilled” (vs 15 - ESV)?

What did Jesus call people to do (vs 15)?

“Living Water”

Study: John 4:5-15

Reading: Genesis 33:18-34:21

Memory: Psalm 51:13



Well & Feeding Trough in Samaria - from the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands

What Does the Bible Say?

Jesus purposely chose to go through Samaria on His way back to Galilee and stopped at the village of Sychar. This was near the area that Jacob had purchased when he first visited Shechem (Genesis 33:18-20). The humanity of Jesus can be seen in the passage as John described that Jesus was tired from the journey and sat down by the well to refresh himself. John stated it was at the sixth hour, which could have been noon or six in the evening depending on whether he used Jewish time or Roman time. This means Jesus was either tired from the sweltering heat of the mid-day or from a long journey (vs 5-6).

While Jesus was near the well, a woman of Samaria came to the well and Jesus asked her to give Him a drink from the well. Since she was by herself, many assume it was the middle of the day and she was coming because she was an outcast in her town. The woman was shocked when Jesus spoke to her because it broke several social laws. First, she was a

woman. Jewish men didn't often speak to women in public because they were viewed as lesser than men. Second, she was a Samaritan who would have been looked down on by the Jews and a person the Jews would not talk to. Third, she was a woman who had been involved in immoral acts. The shocked Samaritan woman wondered why Jesus would ask her for a drink knowing full well that most other Jews would have completely ignored her or looked at her with great judgmental eyes (vs 7-9).

Jesus used her question to turn the conversation into a spiritual one, stating that she should be asking Him for water since He could provide living water. She didn't understand what He was talking about since he had nothing to get the water with and the well was very deep. The term "living water" in Bible days often referred to water that came from a stream or from a source that was moving. Water found in wells and cisterns were not often referred to as "living" since it was not being continually refreshed and renewed.

In a somewhat mocking way, she mentioned that Jesus would have to be greater than Jacob, who the Samaritans looked to as their founding father. Jesus wasn't bothered by her comments but instead offered her a different type of water, a water that would quench her spiritual thirst. She, still thinking in earthly terms, didn't understand that Jesus was offering her something much more than physical fulfillment (vs 10-15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that Jesus offers you so much more than physical fulfillment? Many people choose to trust in Jesus thinking that He will provide them with material wealth and ease of life. Many of these people fall away because they get discouraged when the trials of life come. They fail to understand that Jesus offers spiritual life that lasts for all eternity. He provides spiritual water that satisfies the thirst in a soul for a greater purpose in life. Contrary to wells that would often run dry, Jesus provides living water that is continually supplied and those who drink from it don't have to thirst again. This is a tremendous promise for all believers and from this you can realize the satisfaction and fulfillment that God wants you to have. If you are living with an emptiness or dissatisfaction in your life today, look to God to fulfill your spiritual thirst and drink from His supply of spiritual strength.

Where was Jesus traveling (vs 4)?

What city did Jesus travel through (vs 5)?

Can you name significant events that happened in and around this city?

****Jacob's sons and the circumcision of the men of Shechem; Joseph traveled through this city looking for his brothers; the sons of Gideon were killed by Abimelech; this city is surrounded by Mount Ebal and Mount Gerazim where the Israelites declared blessings and cursings; the Israelites also buried the body of Joseph in Shechem.*

What did Jesus do when He reached the well (vs 6)?

What did Jesus ask the woman for (vs 7)?

Why were the disciples not around (vs 8)?

Why was this woman surprised (vs 9)?

Why do you think Jesus talked to the woman the way that He did in verse 10)?

****Jesus often said things indirectly to cause others to think and open the opportunity to declared the message of the Gospel.*

What did she ask Jesus (vs 11)? Why?

Why do you think she mentioned Jacob (vs 12)?

What did Jesus make clear about the well water (vs 13)?

What will happen to those who drink the living water that Jesus offers (vs 14)?

What did this woman say she wanted (vs 15)? Why?

Why do you think it was hard for her to understand that Jesus was talking about a spiritual concept instead of an earthly one?

“Spirit and Truth”

Study: John 4:16-26

Reading: Psalm 103:1-18, Matthew 15:1-9

Memory: Psalm 51:13



Place on Mt. Gerazim where the Samaritans still practice animal sacrifice today.

What Does the Bible Say?

After Jesus told the Samaritan woman that He could give her water that would quench her spiritual thirst, she wanted to know how she could get it. Instead of answering her immediately, Jesus told her to go get her husband. Jesus knew she did not have a husband but had been married (and most likely divorced) multiple times in the past. He also knew that she was now living with a man who was not her husband. By this, Jesus was helping her see that she was a sinner and it was that sin that didn't allow her to have the living water. Realizing that Jesus knew the details about her life, though they had never met, caused the woman to understand that Jesus was some type of prophet. One of the great differences between the Samaritans and the Jews is that the Samaritans claimed that Mt. Gerazim was the place they

should worship while the Jews claimed Jerusalem was the place they should worship. The Samaritans built a temple on Mt Gerazim where they thought the actual presence of God dwelt. She was basically describing how she thought her way to God was just as good, if not better, than the Jewish way to God, but she didn't know that there was only one way and she was talking to Him (vs 16-20).

Jesus wanted her to take her eyes off the physical place of worship and look to the God that she claimed she was worshipping. The Samaritans only believed in the first five books of the Bible and they had their own translation of portions of those books. They didn't believe in the same God that many of the Jews believed in because they didn't know the true God. The revelation they had through the written word was different than what the Jews had. Jesus was declaring that there was only one way to God and that was through a Jew. The Jew He was referring to was Himself and He was going to make a way to God. The true worship of God was not limited to a specific place because God was a Spirit. True worshipers of God do not follow some religious tradition, or only meet God at a certain place, but they follow the truth that God has given (vs 21-24),

The woman revealed that she knew that a Messiah was to come and bring peace to the earth. When the Messiah came He would fully explain all things and help settle the differences between the Samaritans and the Jews. Jesus responded by declaring that He was the Messiah (vs 25-26).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that God knows everything about you? If you have been a believer for any period of time, you have heard this over and over again, but take a moment to let the truth and practical application of it sink in. This means that He loves you in spite of all your faults and failures. This means he knows your sorrows and deepest hurts. He understands what you are thinking when no one else can. This means that you have a God who cares about you more than any human ever could.

Do you worship God in Spirit and truth? Many people claim they worship God, just as the Samaritan woman did, but they only worship Him in form and function. They go through the acts of religion and say the words that need to be said, but they don't know and understand the truth that liberates them from their religious trap. When you worship God in Spirit because the truth has been revealed to you, you serve Him and follow Him out of a heart of love and not obligation. You are not limited to only worshipping Him in church, but you worship Him with your whole life.

What did Jesus tell the woman to do (vs 16)?

****Most official dealings of that day were not done by women but were done through a husband or father.*

Why do you think Jesus asked this?

What did the woman declare (vs 17)?

Why did Jesus tell her that she was right (vs 17)?

What did Jesus know about this woman (vs 18)?

****Though it is not stated directly, the fact that she was living with a man she wasn't married to and had gone through five husbands indicate the woman most likely had been divorced and remarried multiple times.*

Why did the woman realize Jesus was some type of prophet (vs 19)?

Why did she have a hard time believing a Jewish prophet (vs 20)?

What did Jesus say was coming (vs 21)?

What did Jesus declare about salvation (vs 22)?

What would true worshipers do (vs 23)?

Why do you think Jesus said this?

****The Jews emphasized Jerusalem and the Samaritans emphasized Mt. Gerazim as the places a person needed to go to meet God. Jesus was telling her that He was going to make a completely different way.*

What did Jesus say God is (vs 24)?

What do you think He meant by this?

What did the woman know (vs 25)?

What did Jesus declare (vs 26)?

Memory Verses

Psalms 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy 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, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that 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 right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.