

Psalm 51:1-12 (NIV84)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

May 3

My Father Understands

He remembereth that we are dust. Psalm 103:14

Who understands us better than our father or our mother? Who is more intimately acquainted with our peculiarities, our faults and failings, our weaknesses and errors--than our father or our mother? And who is more ready to forgive us when we fail, or to explain away and to cover our shortcomings with the mantle of sweet charity? The father heart remembers the limitations of the child--and in that remembrance is moved to love and pity.

So, too, our heavenly Father. "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust" (Psalm 103:10-14).

He knoweth our frame -- that we are so weak, so erring, and so sinful. That is why he offers us a salvation that is full and free, dependent upon no merit, no accomplishment, no worthiness of our own. In Christ and his atoning work we have everything that the loving father-heart of God could

give: forgiveness of sins today and every day, and eternal life with God in the everlasting mansions. What peace, what joy, what confidence--to know that in heaven we have such a

Father, a Father who knows us by our very names and who, knowing us, forgives us for Jesus' sake.

Surely, knowing ourselves for what we are and knowing our Father for what he is, we have every reason to exclaim:

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.