

Create in me a clean heart

Introduction

David, who was known for his intimacy with God, experienced a season of sin, in which he committed adultery and then murder to cover up his sin. Isn't it crazy how far we can stray from who we desire to be?

Getting to the root of a heart problem is more than just dealing with our individual sinful acts. Of course, we need forgiveness for sins, but all sin is the fruit of our corruption that we inherited in Adam. Recently, we completed a study on strongholds – what they are and how to get free from them. One thing we discovered in this study is that strongholds start as the ideas that the enemy of our soul; the accuser, spoken of in Rev 12:10, attempts to attack us with in order to replace God's truth with his lies.

As children of God we must take the time to evaluate our inward dispositions, affections, attitudes and ideas to discover what aligns with God and His word and what stems from an outside source. David, after being confronted with his sin with Bathsheba, engaged in this process and confessed his need for the Lord to create in him a clean heart (Psalm 51: 10). In so doing, he displayed his awareness of his need for divine grace. John Calvin comments, "By the term *create* ... [David] acknowledges that we are indebted entirely to the grace of God, both for our first regeneration, and, in the event of our falling, for subsequent restoration." From first to last, the Christian life is a matter of grace. Grace initiates our salvation, it sustains our salvation, and it will complete our salvation.

Further to this, God's grace and power is available to His children, He can re-create our heart at any time. We don't have to live full of the accusations, wrong ideas and condemnation of the enemy. If you are a believer who is currently feeling condemned, fearful, and accused, you can ask the Lord to create a pure heart within you. With God's grace you can let go of the lies and align your heart with His truth.

Getting Started

- Create a verse map of Psalm 51:10.
- What are some struggles or conditions of the heart that Christ's followers may experience that can make life difficult for them?



Let's Get Personal

- Have sin, shame and condemnation been weapons that the enemy has ever used against you? How so?
- What accusations from the enemy have kept you from moving forward spiritually in the past?
- What obstacles(s) or hindrance(s) are keeping you from moving forward spiritually right now?
- What is the relationship between truth in the inward parts (Psalm 51:6) and breaking strongholds?
- How can you guard your heart (Proverbs 4:23)?

Take the Next Step

- Map out the verse Proverbs 4:23. What understanding does this process provide?
- Want to dig deeper? Look at the following verses: Romans 8:7-8, Romans 12:2, Jeremiah 17:9, Deuteronomy 30:6, Ezekiel 36:26.

