

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

The Blues is a music style originated in the deep south in 1860s among the African-Americans. Memphis is one of the places that plays an important role in promoting the music. B.B. King was a key artist of it. He was born in Mississippi. He worked in Memphis for a period of time. To remember his achievements, there is a street in downtown Memphis named after him! The Blues is often associated with hardship in life such as poverty and racial bias. People used the songs to express their pain and sorrow. Besides the struggles in the society, sin can impact our souls. It affects our inner being, our relationship with others and our fellowship with God. Sin is a spiritual sickness. In Psalm 51, David the author seeks God for a spiritual healing. The introductory statement of the psalm tells us the background story: **...A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.** The incident is recorded in 2 Samuel 11 and 12. At that time, David was the king of Israel. One afternoon he got up from his nap. From the rooftop of his palace, David saw a woman bathing. Bathsheba was her name. She was married to a soldier named Uriah. David sent his men to get the lady. Later, she was pregnant. To cover his tail, David gave Uriah some time off from military duty and asked him to go home. That plan did not work out. David then wrote a secret letter to a commander, asking him to put Uriah at the frontline. Uriah thus died in a battle. Subsequently, David took Bathsheba to be his wife. Although no one knew David's wicked scheme, God did. God asked prophet Nathan to confront David. The king humbly confessed his sins. He then wrote this psalm as a recollection. David outlines a few steps it takes for us to seek God's forgiveness. We must admit our mess before we ask God to administer His mercy.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 誠實認罪 Repent of Sins

First, David repents his sins to God. David is aware of his fault. Let us read **verses 3-5**. David uses a few words to describe his wrongdoings. We see "transgression" in verse 3. It means crossing the line. Owners of vacant lots often put a sign saying "no trespassing" on the outside. There will be consequence if anyone crosses the line. We also find the word "sin" in the same verse. The meaning of the word is offence. Sin violates the benefits of the victims. It can cause physical injury, property loss or emotional hurt. The third word "iniquity" is found in verse 5. It refers to behaviors that are outside the norm. Robbing a bank is a crime because it is not a proper way to make a living. David sinned by breaking God's law on marriage. He killed a man and stole his wife. Notice how David repents. First, he holds himself accountable. He says in verse 3: **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.** David calls sin as sin without any compromise or excuse. He does not say: "It's Bathsheba's fault. She was in a wrong place at a wrong time," or "The devil made me do it," or "My parents passed me some bad genes." David admits: "I did it." Second, David does not only hold himself accountable, he knows that he is accountable to God too. Look at verse 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.**

David admits that he did not only sin against people. Ultimately, he robbed God of His glory. What David did was not only barbaric and selfish; it was evil. We are made in the image of God. We tarnish God's character each time we sin. It is like celebrity children ruin the reputation of their families when they commit serious crimes. God loses His face too when we choose to do wrong. Just like David did, we must realize the seriousness of sin before we will repent to God. Spiritual sickness is similar to physical sickness. Suppose you have a flu. Symptoms like fever, body ache, running nose, cough etc. all show up. You will not look for treatments unless you admit that you are sick. When we sin, we often excuse ourselves by saying: "Everyone sins. What's the big deal?" or "It's okay because I didn't hurt anyone." People condone it does not mean God will not condemn it. Not getting caught can never rationalize our sins either. God sees everything even when no one notices. He will go after us. Sin grieves God's heart. We will not repent until we realize that the damages we caused are more significant than the profits we get.

## 2. 清除罪疚 Remove all Guilt

After David repents his sins, he asks God to remove all his guilt. He let God to prescribe treatments. Let us read from **verses 7-9**. Here we see a few actions the psalmist asks God to take. We see "purge" and "wash" in verse 7. David prays that God will purge him with hyssop. He might have a ceremonial cleansing in mind. One reference is in Leviticus 14 that deals with lepers. A priest performed a ritual after the patient had recovered. A bird would be killed and its blood be blended with water in a bowl. The priest would sprinkle the mixture to the person seven times. The person was then declared clean and could resume normal life. Beside purging, David also asks God to wash him in verse 7 of the psalm. That Hebrew word is generally used in laundry. In the Leviticus passage, the recovered leper was required to wash his clothes after the cleansing ritual. Removal of germs and dirt symbolize that the person is spiritually clean. David asks God to clean him to make whiter than snow. There are two other actions David begs God to do in verse 9. He asks God to hide His face from sins. The idea is not to consider those sins do not exist. One picture I can think of is the peek-a-boo game every kid loves to play. They cover their eyes with their hands and say "peek-a-boo!" They pretend the other person has disappeared. The Bible says God chooses not to remember the sins of those whom He forgives. That ties to the last action David prays that God will take. It is to blot out his iniquities. The phrase means to eliminate. It is used in Genesis when God told Noah that He intended to use a flood to wipe out all living things. Why is God willing to purge, wash, hide and blot out our sins? David speaks of God's attributes in verse 1: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.** He pleads for God's mercy. Mercy is defined as not getting what we deserve. We deserve eternal punishment due to our sins. But God shows us mercy instead. Beside mercy, David also asks for God's love. The Hebrew word for love here is "hesed." It is connected to God's covenant. God took the initiative and made a covenant with Israel. Since God cannot lie or change His mind, He will continue to bless His people. God is also willing to forgive His children due to that eternal relationship. God can discipline us when we disobey Him. But He always gives us the opportunity to turn back to Him. David knew he had no ground to bargain with God. He could not say to God: "You must forgive me because I'm the king. I do a lot of good things for my people." David could only say: "Lord, forgive me, for I'm a sinner who needs your grace." The same is true for us. It does not matter what title you have at work, what you contribute to the society or how much money you offer. We cannot comprehend how great God's love is unless we understand that we do not deserve it.

Only God can decide whether to punish or pardon sinners. Only He who wrote the law can override His rules and grant us forgiveness.

### 3. 重整心靈 Restore the Heart

David repents his sins and he asks God to remove his guilt. Next, he hopes that God will restore his heart. That will rebuild his relationship with God. Let us read from **verses 10-12**. In verse 10, David asks God for two things. He desires to have a clean heart and a steadfast spirit. The two parallel statements express the same idea. David asks God to reprogramming his heart, much like doing a factory reset on your electronic gadget. Sin is not just about outward actions. The root cause is an ungodly mind. When a heart is restored to God's standard, then righteous behaviors will follow. Moreover, David asks God not to abandon him nor to withdraw the Holy Spirit from him. David surely witnessed the differences whether God's Spirit was present or absent in a person. He used to be a personal assistant to king Saul. God chose Saul to be first king in the history of Israel. Saul used to be a shy and timid person. He became a brave and wise leader when God's Spirit descended onto him. Unfortunately, Saul later disobeyed God. Hence, God told Saul that his throne would be given to another person. That man was David. The Holy Spirit then left Saul. He then turned into a jealous, crafty and paranoid man. Eventually, Saul died in the battlefield. David definitely did not want to end up like his previous boss. He hoped to be sensitive to the guidance of God's Spirit. Verse 12 tells us that such person has two characteristics. First, he will have joy. There will be joy when our sins are removed, the burden of sin will be gone. When we return to God, joy will come in. Joy is related to the second sign. It is a heart willing to obey God. It is submission to do God's will. Repentance is not only about begging God to take away His spanking rod. A more important step is for God to restore our hearts. Then we will intentionally choose the right path. A patient is recovered when the symptoms are gone. But prevention is better than cure. A healthy lifestyle can lower the possibility of getting sick. Good diet, frequent exercise and enough sleep will boost up our immune system. The same principles apply to our spiritual life. We have to stay close God. We feed on His Word every day, practice His truths and seek His will. Then we will be able to stand firm next time when temptations come.

### 4. 恢復敬拜 Resume Worship

David feels the devastating effects of sin. Therefore, he humbly repents before God and asks God to remove all his guilt. When David's sins are gone and his heart is restored, he can resume his worship to God. Let us look at **verses 15-19**. David sings with joy after he is made right with God. Pleasant voice flows out from a delightful heart. David knows clearly that God wants his heart more than anything. David has plenty of resources at his disposal. He could have presented a lot of animals if God asked for them. He could take pride in a glorious worship service, with great musicians and a professional choir. But he realizes what God looks for is a humble heart. Only God has power to put back a heart shattered by sin. God knows everything. He can never be fooled or bribed by us. Again, David might be thinking of the mistakes Saul once made. God gave Saul a clear order to completely destroy the enemies and everything they had. But the king spared the best animals for himself. He even lied when confronted by Samuel the prophet. He excused that those cattle and sheep were reserved as sacrifices for God. Samuel rebuked Saul in 1 Samuel 15:22 – ...**“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in**

obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.” No offering can compensate for a rebellious heart. God set a high standard for kings. They could not lead people if they did not follow God’s commands. God would continue to prick their conscience until they repented. Saul hardened his heart while David softened himself. In verse 19, David says after he confesses his sins “then” God will gladly accept his sacrifices. A sin offering will not work if David only presents the offering without presenting his sins. Likewise, we will only be going through the motions in worship if we do not have clean hearts. People can only see our faces. But God examines our hearts. Suppose you offended a friend. You may be able to quench the person’s anger with a costly gift. But the conflict is not resolved until you sincerely say: “I’m sorry.” By the same token, God see His relationship with us more important than what we do and give. No matter how much money we drop into the offering box or how many hours we spend on church ministries, nothing can replace a clear conscience that loves God. Therefore, it is fitting for you to prepare your heart before you worship God. Ask God to forgive any sin you have committed. Clear all those junks from your heart first. Then your songs, prayer and money offering will be acceptable to Him.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

We must first admit our mess before God will administer His mercy to forgive us. David was not shy to expose the horrible sins he committed. His story is included in the Bible not to glorify his wrongdoing, but to witness God’s grace. The ugliness of sin is in sharp contrast to the beauty of God’s mercy. What David needed was not a band-aid but a heart surgery. Forgiveness is not a routine for people to get done. The key is not just about sin removal but also for heart renewal. Forgiveness is free because it is priceless. Why should God forgive sinners? Someone must make up for our damages to God’s glory. That bill had been paid in full. The Father sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for the sin of mankind. Jesus said: “It is finished” when He breathed the last on the cross. Salvation work was completed. Since then, anyone can claim the cleansing power in the blood of Jesus. God’s grace is available, and it is sufficient to take away sins big and small. This opportunity is open to you if you have never asked God for forgiveness. All you have to do are three things. First, admit that you are a sinner. Second, believe that Jesus died for your sins. Third, commit your life to Jesus by accepting Him as your Savior and Lord.

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

藍調是在 1860 年代由南部黑人開創的音樂。孟菲斯是推廣這種音樂的主要城市之一。B.B. King 是其中一位重要的樂手。他出生於密西西比州。他在孟菲斯工作了一段時間。為了紀念他的成就，孟菲斯市中心還有一條街道以他命名！藍調常常與生活中的困難聯繫在一起，例如貧窮和種族偏見。人們用歌曲來表達心中的痛苦和憂傷。除了社會上的掙扎之外，罪也會打擊我們的心靈。罪影響我們的內心、人際關係、和我們與神的交誼。罪是一種屬靈的疾病。在詩篇 51 篇中，作者大衛尋求神的靈性醫治。詩篇的引言告訴我們背景故事：**大衛與拔示巴同室以後，先知拿單來見他；他作這詩...**。這件事記載在撒母耳記下 11 章和 12 章。大衛是當時的以色列王。一天下午，他從午睡中醒來。大衛在宮殿的屋頂上看到一位女士正在洗澡。她的名字是拔示巴，她嫁給一位名叫烏利亞的士兵。大衛派人去把那位女士帶到皇宮。後來，她懷孕了。為了掩飾自己的罪，大衛放烏利亞的假，吩咐他從戰場回家休息。但是大衛的計劃沒有成功。大衛後來寫了一封秘密的信給一位將軍，要求他把烏利亞送到前線。於是大衛借刀殺人，讓烏利亞在戰事中陣亡。然後，大衛娶拔示巴為妻。雖然沒有人知道大衛的詭計，但神知道一切。神吩咐先知拿單去指責大衛。王謙卑地認罪，之後他寫了這首詩作為回憶。大衛指出我們尋求神赦免的幾個步驟。在懇求神施憐憫之前，我們必須先承認自己的問題。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 誠實認罪 Repent of Sins

首先，大衛向神誠實認罪。大衛明白自己的錯誤。讓我們讀**第 3-5 節**。大衛以幾個用詞來描述他的錯誤。我們在第 3 節看到「過犯」。空地的業主一般會外圍放一個寫著「禁止闖入」的牌子。如果有人越過界線，便會有後果。我們在同一節經文也找到「罪」這個字。它的意思是冒犯。罪侵犯了別人的利益，可能帶來身體、財物或情感上的傷害。第三個字「罪孽」出現在第 5 節。這個字是形容違反標準的行為。搶劫銀行是犯法的，因為它不是正當的賺錢方式。大衛犯了罪，違反了神的婚姻律法。他殺了一個人並搶走了他的妻子。請注意大衛如何認罪。首先，他對自己的行為負責。他在第 3 節說：**因為，我知道我的過犯；我的罪常在我面前**。大衛稱罪為罪，他沒有任何的妥協或藉口。他並沒有說：「都是拔示巴的錯。為什麼她要在那個時候在那個地方洗澡？」，或是說「是魔鬼叫我做的」，或者「我的父母遺傳給我一些不良的基因」。大衛乃是承認說：「是我幹的。」其次，大衛不只對自己負

責，他也對神負責。請看第 4 節：**我向你犯罪，惟獨得罪了你；在你眼前行了這惡，以致你責備我的時候顯為公義，判斷我的時候顯為清正。**大衛承認他不只得罪了人，他也奪走了神的榮耀。大衛的所作所為不僅是野蠻和自私的，而且是邪惡的。我們是按照神的形象被創造的。每次我們犯罪時，我們便玷污了神的品格。就像名人的孩子犯案時會損害家庭的聲譽。當我們選擇犯罪時，神也覺得沒面子。就像大衛一樣，我們必須認識到罪的嚴重性，然後才會向神認罪。屬靈上的疾病與身體上的疾病相似。假設你得了流感。發燒、全身酸痛、流鼻水、咳嗽等症狀都出現了。除非你承認自己生病了，否則你不會尋求醫治。我們常常在犯罪時為自己找藉口說：「每個人都會犯罪。有什麼大不了的？」或「沒關係，反正我沒有傷害任何人。」縱使人會妥協罪，並不等於神會容忍罪。沒有被抓到也不能給我們犯罪的通行證。就算沒有人看到，神也知道一切。祂也會追究我們的責任。罪使神的心憂傷。除非我們意識到我們造成的損失過於自己得到的好處，否則我們不會誠實認罪的。

## 2. 清除罪疚 Remove all Guilt

大衛認罪後，他請求神清除他的所有罪疚。他讓神進行屬靈的治療。讓我們讀**第 7-9 節**。在這裡我們看到作者請求神採取的一些行動。我們在第 7 節看到「潔淨」和「洗滌」。大衛請求神用牛膝草潔淨他。他可能想到潔淨的禮儀。例如利未記第 14 章提到如何處理大痲瘋病人。病人痊癒後，祭師需要舉行潔淨的儀式。一隻鳥會被殺死，牠的血混在水裡。祭師會將那些水灑在那個人身上七次。隨後那個人被宣告為潔淨，並且可恢復正常生活。除了潔淨之外，大衛還在第 7 節中求神洗滌他。這個希伯來文用詞通常用在洗衣服。在利未記的經文中，康復的大痲瘋病人在潔淨儀式後必須洗衣服。除掉細菌和污垢象徵著那個人屬靈上是潔淨的。大衛祈求神洗滌他，使他比雪更白。在第 9 節中，大衛懇求神做另外兩件事。他希望神掩面不看他的罪。意思不表示那些罪並不存在。我能想到的形容好像小孩子玩的躲貓貓。他們用手遮住眼睛說「躲貓貓！」，假裝對方已經消失了。聖經說神選擇不記念那些被饒恕的人的罪。這與大衛祈求神採取的最後一項行動有關，就是要塗抹他的罪孽。這個字的意思是消滅。在創世記中，當神告訴挪亞祂打算用洪水消滅所有生物時，就使用了這個字。為什麼神願意潔淨、洗滌、隱藏和塗抹我們的罪？大衛在第 1 節談到神的屬性：**神啊，求你按你的慈愛憐恤我！按你豐盛的慈悲塗抹我的過犯！**大衛渴望得到神的慈悲 (或翻譯為憐憫)。憐憫的定義是沒有得到我們應得的。由於我們的罪，我們應該受到永遠的懲罰，但神反而向我們施憐憫。除了憐憫之外，大衛還祈求神的慈愛。這裡的愛的希伯來文是「hesed」，它與神的約有關。神主動與以色列立約。既然神不能說謊或改變主意，祂必須繼續祝福祂的子民。由於這份永恆的關係，神也願意原諒祂的孩子。當我們不順服之時，神可以管教我們。但祂總是給我們回轉的機會。大衛知道他沒有條件與神討價還價。他不能對神說：「祢必須饒恕我，因為我是君王。我為人民做了很多好事。」大衛只能說：「主

啊，原諒我，因為我是一個罪人，需要祢的恩典。」我們也是如此。你在公司擁有什麼頭銜、你對社會有何貢獻或你奉獻多少錢並不重要。除非我們明白自己不配得到神的愛，否則我們無法理解祂的愛有多麼浩大。唯有神才能決定是要懲罰或赦免罪人。只有製定律法的神才能凌駕在規則之上並饒恕我們。

### 3. 重整心靈 Restore the Heart

大衛承認他的罪，並求神清除他的罪疚。接下來，他希望神能重整他的心靈，從而修復他與神的關係。讓我們讀第 10-12 節。在第 10 節中，大衛求神在他身上做兩件事。他渴望擁有一顆清潔的心和正直的靈。兩個平行句子表達了同樣的意思。大衛請求神重整他的心靈，就像你把電子產品回復到出廠時的設定一樣。罪不只是關乎外在的行為，核心問題是不敬虔的心。當我們的心歸回神的標準時，正直的行為就會隨之而來。此外，大衛祈求神不要離棄他，也不要從他身上收回聖靈。大衛曾經目睹神的靈是否在一個人身上的差異。他過去是掃羅王的私人助理。神揀選掃羅成為以色列的第一任君王。掃羅以前是個害羞膽怯的人。當神的靈降臨在他身上時，他變成一個勇敢而有智慧的領袖。很可惜，掃羅後來悖逆神。因此，神告訴掃羅，他的王位將賜給另一個人。那個人就是大衛。然後聖靈就離開了掃羅。於是他變成了一個嫉妒、狡猾和神經質的人。最後，掃羅戰死沙場。大衛不希望得到他以前老闆同樣結局。他希望敏銳聖靈的引導。第 12 節告訴我們，這樣的人有兩個特徵。首先，他會有喜樂。當我們的罪被除去，重擔便卸去。當我們回歸神之時，我們就會感到喜樂。喜樂與第二個表現有關，就是樂意順服神的心。我們願意遵行神的旨意。悔改不只是求神拿走祂的刑杖。更重要的是求神重整我們的心靈，幫助我們選擇正確的道路。當症狀消失後，一個病人就算是康復了。但預防勝於治療。健康的生活型態可以減低生病的機會。有營養的飲食、經常運動和充足的睡眠將增強我們的免疫系統。同樣的原則也適用於我們的屬靈生命。我們必須與神保持親近。我們每天都以聖經為靈糧、實踐真理並尋求神的旨意。這樣，下次當試探來臨時，我們就能站穩了。

### 4. 恢復敬拜 Resume Worship

大衛感受到罪的害處。於是，他在神面前謙卑認罪，也求神除去他一切的罪疚。當大衛的罪被赦免並且他的心靈被重整時，他就可以恢復對神的敬拜。讓我們來看 15-19 節。大衛與神和好之後，他便能喜悅地歌唱。悅耳的聲音便從喜樂的心發出。大衛清楚知道，神最想要的是他的心。大衛有豐富的人力和資源隨他使用。如果神要求的話，大衛可以獻上大量的祭物。他也有專業的樂團和詩班，可以舉辦隆重的聚會。但他明白神所尋找的是一顆謙卑的心。唯有神有能力挽回被罪破碎的心。神知道一切，祂無法被我們愚弄或賄賂。大衛可能再次想起掃羅曾經犯的錯誤。神給掃羅明確的命令，要徹底消滅敵人和他們的一切財物。但是掃羅卻把最好

的動物留給自己。當先知撒母耳指責他的時候，他甚至在說謊。他藉口說那些牛羊是準備要獻給神的祭物。撒母耳在撒母耳記上 15:22 節責備掃羅：...「耶和華喜悅燔祭和平安祭，豈如喜悅人聽從他的話呢？聽命勝於獻祭；順從勝於公羊的脂油。」任何奉獻都無法彌補叛逆的心。神為君王設定了很高的標準。如果他們不遵守神的命令，他們就無法領導人民。神會繼續刺他們的良心，直到他們悔改。掃羅的心變剛硬，大衛的心卻是柔軟的。在第 19 節中，大衛說，在他認罪之後，「那時」神會高興地接受他的祭物。如果大衛只是獻祭而沒有獻上他的罪，那麼贖罪祭就是沒用的。同樣，如果我們的心態不正確，我們的敬拜只是做樣子而已。別人只能看到我們的外表，但是神鑑察我們的內心。假設你冒犯了一位朋友。你也許可以送一份昂貴的禮物來平息對方的怒氣。但只有當你真誠地說：「對不起」，衝突才能得到解決。同樣，神看我們與祂的關係比我們所做的事和奉獻更重要。無論我們投多少錢進奉獻箱，或花多少時間在教會事奉，沒有任何東西可以取代一顆單純愛神的心。因此，在敬拜神之前，你應該先預備好你的心。求神赦免你的罪，清除心中的所有垃圾，然後你的唱詩、禱告和金錢奉獻才會被神接納。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

在懇求神施憐憫之前，我們必須先承認自己的問題。大衛坦誠地揭露他所犯可怕的罪。他的故事被收錄在聖經中，不是為了表揚他的錯誤，而是為了見證神的恩典。罪的醜陋與神憐憫的美好形成鮮明的對比。大衛需要的不是一塊膠布，而是心臟手術。認罪並不是一件讓人完成的例行公事。關鍵不只是一要清除罪，也是為了心靈更新。饒恕是白白的，因為它是無價的。神為什麼願意赦免罪人？必須有人彌補我們對神榮耀的損害。那張帳單已完全付清。天父差派祂的兒子耶穌基督為人類的罪而死。當耶穌在十字架上呼吸最後一口氣時，祂說：「成了」。救贖工作已經完成。從那時起，任何人都可以支取耶穌寶血的潔淨功效。神的恩典是隨時都預備好的，而且能夠除掉任何大小的罪。如果你從未請求神赦免你，今天是個好機會。你需要做三件事。首先，承認你是個罪人。第二，相信耶穌為你的罪而死。第三，將你的生命交託給耶穌，接受祂為你的救主和生命的主。