

Day 7

PRAYER: Start by praying to God to help in your transformation.

SCRIPTURE:

“Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me..”.

Psalm 51:9-11 ESV

EXPLANATION:

Has sin so destroyed us, that the Creator must be called back? What ruin, then, does evil work among mankind *"Believe in me"*. I, in my outer fabric, still exist; but I am empty, deserted, void. Come, then, and let thy power manifest itself in a new creation within my old fallen self. You made a man in the world at the beginning; Lord, make a new man in me I *"A clean heart."* In the seventh verse he asked to be clean; now he seeks a heart suited to that cleanness; but he does not say, *"Cleanse my old heart"*; he is too experienced in the hopelessness of the old nature. He wants the old man to be buried as a dead thing, and a new creation to take its place. Only God can create a new heart or a new earth. Salvation is a wonderful display of supreme power. supreme power; both the work in us and the work for us is entirely of Omnipotence. The affections must first be rectified, or our whole nature will go wrong. The heart is the rudder of the soul, and until the Lord takes it into his hands, we shall be led in a false and vitiated path. O Lord, you who once made me, be pleased to make me anew, and renew me in my most secret parts. *"Renew a right spirit within me."* It was there once, Lord, put it there again. The law of my heart has become like an inscription hard to read: write it again, gracious Maker. Take away the evil as I have entreated thee; but, oh, replace it with good, lest in my swept, empty, and garrisoned heart, from which the devil has gone out for a time, seven other spirits more wicked than the first should enter and dwell. The two phrases form a complete sentence. *"Create that which does not exist; renew that which exists, but in a sadly weak state."*

"Cast me not out of thy presence." Cast me not away as worthless; drive me not away, like Cain, from thy face and from thy favor. Let me sit among those who share your love, even if I am only allowed to keep the door. I deserve to be forever denied admission to thy courts; but, O good Lord, permit me still the privilege which is as dear to me as life itself. *"Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me."* Forsake me not as thou didst Saul, when neither by Urim, nor by prophet, nor by sleep, wilt thou answer him (e.g. **1 Samuel 28:15**). Your Spirit is my wisdom, do not abandon me to my folly; he is my strength, do not abandon me to my own weakness. Do not take me away from you, nor you from me. Keep the union between us, which is my only hope of salvation. It will be a great wonder if so pure a Spirit deigns to abide in so vile a heart as mine; but then, Lord, all is wonder together, therefore do this, for thy mercy's sake, I earnestly beseech thee.

"Restore to me the joy of thy salvation." Salvation he had known, and he had known it as the Lord's own; he had also felt the joy that comes from being saved, but he had lost it for a time, and so he longed for its restoration. None but God can restore this joy; He can do it; we can ask Him for it; He will do it for His own glory and our benefit. *"And uphold me with thy free Spirit."* Conscious of his weakness, conscious of having so recently fallen, he seeks to be held up by a power greater than himself. That royal Spirit, whose holiness is true dignity, is able to make us walk as kings and priests, in all the uprightness of holiness; and He will do so if we seek His gracious upholding. Such influences will not enslave us, but emancipate us; for holiness is freedom, and the Holy Spirit is a free Spirit. In the roughest and most treacherous paths we are safe with such a guardian; in the best paths we stumble if left to ourselves.

MEDITATE:

Can you see the need to be renewed? Have you recognized your sin? Do you consider it important to be right before God? Do you want to be in God's presence always? Do you want God's Spirit to be with you always? Do you want to have God's approval constantly?

PRAYER: Finish with a prayer asking God for wisdom to surrender all to Him.

Renewal