

My Own Psalm 51 by Cathy Batson

As I was looking through the suggested scriptures for Lent, Psalm 51 jumped off the page and spoke to me. However, as I pondered it, I was compelled to put it in my own words and create a very personal prayer.

I'm always somewhat confused about Lent since I did not grow up with that tradition but, praise, prayer and worship were part of our weekly service. Each Sunday after praise and worship an elderly "mother of the church" would stand in the pulpit and recite scripture verbatim without ever looking at her bible.



She would always end the scripture with a prayer, clearly straight from her heart. The church would shout "Amen, praise God" when she was finished. I thought about her as I read this psalm and decided to share my own interpretation, beginning at verse 10.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Thank you God for blessing me with another opportunity to come with a pure heart and stand in my truth.

11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

I'm asking that you continue to be patient with me, for in me there is you.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
Continue to adorn me with your beauty each day and remind me that through you I've inherited grace.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
I want others to see you when they look at me, hear your voice when I speak. I want to show others the way to your welcoming door.

14 Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

Lord, Deliver me..provide me with wings of an eagle that I may soar over hurdles that have kept me fearful and bound.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

God, free the words that are buried deep in my soul where hope of rescue often gets lost. Then my once hidden truth will leap in my womb and take

flight, declaring to the world that God is life, God is Love, God is in me.....