

Here is an example of the Thought of the Day God's Embrace Ministries sends out every day. If you would like to receive this, please email andy.nunmaker@GodsEmbrace.org with your name and email address.

Thanks and God bless



Psalm 51:12-14

"A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me. Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me."

REFLECTION:

What a beautiful supplication! The psalmist is emptying himself out to God asking for strength and God's mercy. I read this a number of times before I began to compose my reflection and it seems the theme for Psalm 51 is a plea from someone that has perhaps sinned. He has fallen from grace when he asked to *"a steadfast spirit renew within me."* He also realizes the strength he receives from the Holy Spirit. He clearly understands that with the help of the Holy Spirit he can once again have *"the joy of salvation."* The prophet Ezekiel in chapter 11 said, *"I will give them another heart and a new spirit I will put within them. From their bodies I will remove the hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh."* My dear sisters and brothers, when we humble ourselves and seek the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, our life is put in order and righteousness is within us. When the psalmist sinned, he realized he had fallen from the grace of God, but he also realized God is merciful to those repentant and will welcome them back into His warm embrace. Sinfulness can be a slippery slope. If we do not seek the intervention of the Holy Spirit, we chance the fate of falling further into a pit of darkness and evil. It was our free will that caused the sin and it is our free will that will spur us on to seek the help of the Holy Spirit and reverse our course. St Paul admonishes us in Romans 4:23, *"All who have sinned are deprived of the glory of God."* When we sin, we turn our back to God, but God never turns His back on us. Ezekiel furthers tells us, *"that they walk according to my statutes, taking care to keep my ordinances. Thus, they will be my people, and I will be their God."* This is the joy of salvation the psalmist longs for and it should be our fervent desire also. With our Triune God all things are possible. Have the hope and joy of the psalmist in your heart, mind and soul.

PRAYER:

LORD God, You are my God and one that I humbly bow down to and give praise and thanksgiving. Give me the strength to avoid and detest the thought of sinning against You. When evil confronts me, let me gird my loins and remain faithful to You, my LORD and God. Triune God, be my all.

www.GodsEmbrace.org