

# Psalms 51:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

## Analysis

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The confession: 'For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.' David uses three words for sin: pesha (transgression, rebellion), chata'ah (sin, missing the mark), and avon (iniquity, twisted perversity). The sin is 'ever before me'--not hidden, excused, or minimized but constantly confronted.

## Historical Context

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Written after Nathan confronted David about Bathsheba and Uriah (2 Samuel 12), this psalm models genuine repentance: owning sin without excuse or blame-shifting.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What does keeping sin 'ever before me' contribute to genuine repentance?

2. How do the three Hebrew words for sin capture different aspects of moral failure?

## Interlinear Text

## Additional Cross-References

**Isaiah 59:12** (Sin): For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;

**Proverbs 28:13** (Sin): He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

**Psalm 38:18** (Sin): For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.

**Psalms 32:5** (Sin): I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

**Psalms 40:12** (Parallel theme): For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.

**Job 33:27** (Sin): He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not;

**Jeremiah 3:25** (Sin): We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.