

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Matthew 6:12-13; Psalm 51:1-7, 10-12

Introduction:

1. What is the difference between confession and repentance?
 - A. Confession is agreeing with the spiritual findings of God (I Jn 1:9).
 - B. Repentance is turning from our sins & turning to God (Acts 3:19).
2. When we confess & repent, we are assuming responsibility for our sin.

I. (Matt. 6:12-13) TWO KEY OBSTACLES PREVENT TRUE CONFESSION.

1. (v. 12) Spiritual victory requires our forgiveness.
 - A. We all want to be forgiven, but we too are to be forgiving.
 - B. Don't hold yourself nor others hostage by being unforgiving (Matthew 6:14-15, Romans 12:19).
 - C. Once we secure God's forgiveness & others, forgive yourself.
2. (v. 13) Spiritual victory requires overcoming the temptation.
 - A. Pray for spiritual victory over temptation.
 - B. Realize that God limits the temptations severity so we can win.
 - C. This is our promise in I Corinthians 10:13.

II. (Ps. 51) SPIRITUAL BROKENNESS ALWAYS PRECEEDS TRUE CONFESSION.

1. (v. 1) David knew all sin is first against God, the perfect standard.
2. (v. 2) David knew only God can take away our sin.
3. (v.3) David learned sin weighs on one's conscience until repentance.
4. (v. 4) David made no excuses for sin but owned it as a disgrace to God.
5. (v. 5) David owned his responsibility for his inherent sin nature.
6. (v. 6) David knew God expects 100% honesty and transparency.
7. (v. 7) David knew the only cure was his repentance & yielding to God.

III. (Ps. 51) SPIRITUAL RENEWAL ALWAYS FOLLOWS TRUE CONFESSION.

1. (v. 10) David requested a clean heart and right spirit (only the repentant can contain a clean heart and right spirit (Matt. 5:8; Jn 4:24).
2. (v. 11) David requested the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30; John 16:13; Romans 8:16).
3. (v. 12) David requested the joy of God's salvation and a right spirit (Nehemiah 8:10; Micah 6:8).

Conclusion:

1. Confession and repentance are prerequisite to fellowship with God.
2. Prayer enables us to confess, repent, and seek God's renewal.

I John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

Matthew 6:14-15 – ‘For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”’

Romans 12:19 – “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.”

I Corinthians 10:13 – “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Matthew 5:8 – “Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.”

John 4:24 – “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Ephesians 4:30 – “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

John 16:13 – “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

Romans 8:16 – The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Nehemiah 8:10 – ‘Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”’

Micah 6:8 – “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”