
CONFESSION OF SIN

LESSON NINE

One of the most important teachings of the Bible for the new Christian is the matter of confession of sin. Becoming a Christian does not mean we become perfect or sinless. We will never be free from sin until we are in Heaven with Christ and are made like Him (1 John 3: 1,2). Even after we are saved, we still disobey God and sin. The Bible warns against boasting that we do not sin: *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* (1 John 1:8).

Jesus taught His disciples to pray, *"And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil"* (Luke 11:4). Many ask: *"What do I do as a Christian when I have disobeyed God and sinned?"* The answer is clear and simple: *"If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9).

Consider what this one verse teaches us: (1) Christians can and do sin; (2) Confession or admitting our sins to God is necessary; (3) God is faithful and just, that means He will forgive us every time, and He has a just basis on which to forgive us -- the FINISHED work of Christ on the cross; (4) Forgiveness means to clear the account or send away; (5) The sins will be removed; the believer's heart will be cleansed; (6) The only condition is confession or acknowledging our sins to God.

Another question often asked by new Christians: *"How often should I confess my sins?"* Again, the answer is simple:

As often as you need to. How often do we wash our hands? Every time they get dirty. That's how often we are to wash our hearts by confession. How often will God forgive you as a Christian? Every time we ask Him and as often as necessary. His forgiveness is unlimited. Jesus Christ has clearly PAID for all our sins. Therefore never be reluctant to confess your sins to God. He knows about them, and is more anxious to forgive than we are to ask forgiveness. Understand, too, that even though we sin as Christians, we are still His children forever!

TRUTH IN REVIEW: (Look up verses)

We must realize that Christians still sin; we are not perfect (1 John 1:7,9). God will forgive us and cleanse us as soon as we confess our sins (1 John 2:12).

Sins confessed will be "remembered against us no more forever" (Heb. 10:17).

Sin should be confessed as soon as, and as often as, we are aware of it (Ps. 32:5).

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. Do we sin after we become Christians? Yes ___ No ___
2. When we know we have sinned, what must we do? _____
3. How often must we confess our sins? _____
4. When we confess we will be forgiven and c_____.
5. God's power and willingness to forgive are un_____.
6. God never allows a Christian to be tempted above that which he can _____ (1 Cor. 10:13).
7. When tempted, a Christian should _____ (Luke 22:40); _____ the Devil (James 4:7).
8. A Christian's strength is in _____ (Phil 4:13); however, he should never give _____ an opportunity to get at him (Eph. 4:27).

ANSWERS:

Lesson 9: 1. Yes 2. Confess 3. Each Time 4. Cleanse 5. Unlimited 6. Bear 7. Pray; Resist 8. Christ; Satan