

CONFESSING OUR SINS

Psalm 51:1-17

1. We come to God for forgiveness of our sins based on His character, not ours. Ps. 51:1; Exo. 34:6-7; 33:19; Lam. 3:21-26; Rom. 5:20

gracious = hanan = to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, bestow

lovingkindness= checed = covenant love, steadfast and merciful

compassion = racham = compassion; by ext., the womb (as cherishing the fetus)

2. The first step in asking for forgiveness is admitting our sin. Ps. 51:1b-3; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:9

transgression= pesha` = a revolt, to cross a boundary God has established; a deliberate trespass against God and His law

iniquity = avon = moral perversity, evil, or twistedness

sin = chatta'ah = to fall short, to miss the mark; an offense (sometimes habitual)

confess = homologeo = to say the same, agree, assent

3. All sin is against God, so He rightly serves as a Just Judge. Ps. 51:4; 19:7-8, 9b, 11; 96:10

justified = tsadaq = to be right (in a moral or forensic [crime investigation] sense); to be just or righteous

blameless = zakah = to be pure, clear, translucent, innocent

judge = shaphat = to judge, i.e. pronounce sentence; by impl., to vindicate or punish; by ext., to govern

4. We all have a sin nature that only God can heal. Ps. 51:5-7; Rom. 5:12; 7:18-25; Jas. 1:13-15; 1 Cor. 10:4, 12; Rev. 12:11

tempted = peirazo = to entice, as luring a fish out from behind a rock

lust = epithumia = a longing (esp. for what is forbidden)

5. We suffer when we refuse to confess and repent of our sins. Ps. 51:8, 3; Heb. 11:25; Ps. 32:3-4; Deut. 10:13

6. When we truly confess and repent of our sins, God forgives us and cleanses our hearts. Ps. 51:9-10; 103:12; Prov. 25:28; Gal. 5:16; 1 John 1:9; Mic. 7:19; Acts 2:38; 10:43

baptized = baptizo = to wet, make fully whelmed (as dipping cloth into dye); to be identified with

7. When we confess and repent of our sins, the Lord restores His fellowship with us—the true source of our joy. Ps. 51:11-15; Isa. 59:2; Matt. 12:34; Neh. 8:10; Acts 3:19

repent = metaneo = to turn, return; to change one's mind or purpose

refreshing = anapsuxis = a recovery of breath, i.e. (fig.) revival

8. The Lord delights in truly repentant hearts and blesses them. Ps. 51:16-17; Matt. 23:27-28; 1 Sam. 16:7; 2 Cor. 7:10

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. *Do I focus on God's character or my own when confessing my sins? Will I confess my sins, knowing God's grace is greater than all of them? Will I rely on God's grace, compassion, and lovingkindness as I approach Him for forgiveness?*
2. *Is there sin I need to admit to God? Where and how am I falling short of rightly representing the character and nature of God? Will I call it sin, as God does?*
3. *Do I view my sins as first and foremost against God? Do I rely on the Lord as a just and righteous judge? Do I trust and accept His decisions about me, including how He handles my sin?*
4. *Am I aware of my sin nature, and am I asking the Lord for wisdom in dealing with it? Am I relying on the finished work of Jesus to help me resist the temptation to sin? Am I relying on Jesus to forgive my sins—past, present, and future?*
5. *Am I suffering because of some sin? Will I run to God and get right with Him? How am I being tempted right now to sin? Will I play the movie forward and think of sin's consequences, refusing to be caught in its clutches?*
6. *Am I relying on what Jesus did in order to receive continued forgiveness and cleansing of my sins? Will I go to Jesus today to receive any forgiveness and cleansing I need?*
7. *Will I ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any sin that is standing in the way of deep joy and true fellowship with the Lord? Will I be quick to repent of any sin so that I can have the most intimate relationship with Lord?*
8. *Am I sorrowful because of what my sin does to the heart of God—or because I got caught and am experiencing sin's consequences? Will I give the Lord the gift of a broken and contrite heart—so He can heal me and show me the gift of His grace?*