
CONFESSION

(UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF OPENNESS)

INTRODUCTION:

Bitterness is the #1 reason why people fall away from God and His church. All sin leads to bitterness. God's plan to keep us bitter-free is confession. It isn't always easy but confession is always essential to being pure-hearted and guilt-free.

Proverbs 28:13-14

- Concealing sin stifles prosperity; confession brings mercy.
- God should be a disciple's motivation for confession.
- A lack of confession will harden a person's heart.

James 5:16

- Confess sins to another person (spiritually strong/capable of helping).
- Confession is for healing not just for forgiveness.

1 John 1:5-10

- Confession is essential to walking in the light.
- We need to make sure we confess, first and foremost to God.

Luke 17:9-14

- Compare the heart conditions of the Pharisee and tax collector.
- Confession of sin in prayer is humbling yet strengthening.

Psalms 32:1-7/Psalm 38

- Hiding sin will bring emotional torment and physical pain.

Psalms 51

- Being humble about your sin draws you nearer to God.
- Lying about your sin distances you from God and people.

Note: Dealing with sin does not have to be a negative experience, but rather a time of refreshment. Get the right attitude about it.

CHALLENGE:

Take time to confess your sins to each other. Remember when you first studied the Bible to become a Christian...remember the sense of "freedom" after confessing your sins?