

The Power of Prayer: Confession

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Day 9

Read Psalm 51

Key Verse

"For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just [a]when You speak, And blameless when You judge." Psalm 51:3-4 (NKJV).

Key Reflection

King David offers this prayer of confession to God after he realizes the sin of adultery with Bathsheba and his conspiring in the murder of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband. It is important to know that David directs this prayer of confession to God. God is the one whom David offended. When we confess our sins, we do so unto God. The Lord our God is the one we insult when we sin. We must first acknowledge that our offense is unto God. For the Lord our God is the only one who possesses the power to forgive sin. The power to accept the grace of God is activated when we first admit our wrong to the Lord.

Thought

David did not acknowledge his sin until he was confronted by the prophet Nathan. It took months before David offered the prayer of confession. Essentially, David becomes one with his sin and is either unaware or unashamed of his offense to God. It must be brought to his remembrance. As believers we be quick to admit our sin to God and live with the consequences. We must regret our actions honestly and expediently in prayer to God. One scholar suggests, that "honesty is vital our confession. God will graciously forgive all of sins, but not on account of our excuses."¹¹ Honest confession is our responsibility. No matter how great the offense, we can take comfort in knowing that through Christ we can receive forgiveness.

Prayer

Lord, forgive me for the ways in which I offend you. My honest plea is that like King David, I was formed in iniquity and shaped in unrighteousness. I acknowledge my fault before you. Please accept my plea and keep your presence ever before me. I cannot make it without you and I do not know what I would do if you were not with me. Bring to remembrance the unconfessed sin and that shortcoming I have kept hidden from you. I willingly offer myself to you as one who is broken and in need of your forgiveness. Hear my prayer and forgive my sins. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Questions

1. Are there any unconfessed sins in your life? If so, what is preventing you from acknowledging it?

¹¹ The New Open Bible, Study Edition (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1990), p. 1494