

Series: **EQUIPPED TO PRAY**

Title: **Equipped to pray ... Call to Confess**

Text: 2 Cor. 7:9-13

We have taught on....

- Call to *relationship* with a Holy God.
- Call to *recognition* of His voice.
- Call to the *invitation* into in the three unseen Arenas of spiritual Battles: The Heavens, The Mind, The Ministry Moment.
- Call to the *position* of persistent and constant prayer.
- Call to *taking the offense* against the enemy.
- Call to *praise* God in the storms.
- Call to *request* of God for your personal needs for you and others.

Today I want to speak on confession and repentance.

Attention

CALL TO CONFESS (CONTRITION)

Need

Satisfaction

Jesus gave us clarity on the help we need when we are broken and need God's touch. He called from his heart for people to come before the father and stand in agreement what the Father has told us to do.

The Holy Spirit continues to speak to each person to draw him to Jesus.

- 2 Jobs for One Goal
 - Adjustments and Assignments
 - To bring glory to Jesus

The Scripture gives us insights and directions which lay out what contrition, confession, and repentance looks like.

Contrition - Anguish

dakka' - crushed (literally to powder, or figuratively, contrite) -- contrite, destruction.

2 Cor. 7:9-13

⁹ *As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. ¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. ¹¹ For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. ¹² So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. ¹³ Therefore we are comforted.*

Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

- If we believe that we are giving our lives to God – sacrifice – then we will have a broken spirit.
 - A broken and contrite heart.
 - We have heart the heart of God.

Psalm 34:18

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

- If we feel that God is far from us... we must check and see if we are truly brokenhearted from the sins that we have done
 - It is not a simple “I am sorry” to avoid the confrontation.
 - It is not a simple “sorry” to avoid punishment.
 - It is not a simple “sorry” fully knowing that I am not going to work on the thing that caused pain.
- It is a crushed spirit.

Isaiah 66:2

All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

- Where is God looking?
- ...to the humble, contrite spirit who holds firm to His Word.

Joel 2:13

“...and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

keriah – Rending of the Garment and of the Heart

- The sorrow of what has been lost or damaged must be real and released.
- Our heart must be exposed to God who sees the truth of what is happening – he knows the truth.
- We must realize the gravity of our actions.

keriah - Rending of the garment

- Jacob at seeing Joseph's coat.
- David when Saul died.
- Job who experienced tremendous grief.

Jewish reasons

- Gives psychological release to the emotions held – sanctioned violence.
- Exposes the heart.
- Mandates seven adult relatives obligated to do so.
 - Older than 13 – that they might know the gravity of the loss.

Rending of the heart

- The emotion of what has been lost or damaged must be real and deep and at the core of one's self.
- Our heart must be exposed to God who sees the truth of what is happening – he knows the truth.
- We must realize the gravity of our actions.

Return to the Lord

- He is gracious and merciful...abounding in steadfast love.

Repentance - Accountability

Metanoēō – Change one's mind (for the better)

- Amend with hatred for past sins.
- Conscious of their sins and with manifest tokens of sorrow, are intent; on obtaining God's pardon.

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,

- Change your mind and turn back.

Matt. 3:8

Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

- Which comes first, repentance or fruits which lead to repentance?
 - Is it – Prove by the way you live that you have repented?

- A better life and better acts
 - Or, is it – Bear fruit worthy of repentance?
 - The thought of the “fruit” as preparing the way for repentance.
 - Humility, submission to authority, contrition
- The answer is, both.

James 4:8-10

⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

- Draw near to God – alignment with God’s Word.
- Cleanse your hands – actions.
- Purify your heart – the attitude and passions.
- Do not be double minded – your thoughts.
- Be broken and come humbly.

Luke 13:3

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

- Clear consequences to the unrepentant

Prov. 1:23

If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

- God speaks – we change.
- Then His Spirit will be poured out and we will know His words.

Confession - AGREEMENT

homologeó - to speak the same, to agree.

- In criminal law, to confess is when one voluntarily states that one is guilty of a criminal offense.
 - An admission of guilt
 - A law established; a law broken.
- **We agree with what has been said regarding us.**

1 John 1:9-10

⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* ¹⁰ *If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

- If agree with what he has said about our guilt.
- He forgives, he cleanses.
- If we do not agree with HIS assessment... we are liars and we are not listening to HIM.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

- We must apologize to each other when we have done wrong.
- There is no room for the person who refuses to say that they are sorry.
- Practice humility.

Lev. 5:4b -5

...and he realizes his guilt in any of these; ⁵ when he realizes his guilt in any of these and confesses the sin he has committed,

- You may not have known you did wrong.
- When you realize it... confess.

Three absolutes about confession:

- Confession must be voluntary.
- The confession must be made by and stated by the offender.
- The confession must be told to the one affected.

1 John 1:9-10

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 10:9

...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Imagine what it might look like to walk in comfort and peace.

What if you walked through the day without condemnation from the enemy or from yourself?

Adjustment – Call to Action

- What choice will you make today?
- What **adjustment** in your spirit, mind, and actions needs to take place that you might agree with God about the sin that separates you from peace with God and peace with yourself?