

August 1, 2024

Confess Your Sins to Each Other!

My Prayer of Confession

How often do we confess our sins to each other? What prevents us from doing this in our modern society?

I would suggest that there are a few reasons that might keep us from confessing our sins to each other.

- ❖ Fear of being judged or shunned by our peers.
- ❖ Embarrassment.
- ❖ Fear of the gossip, which is so prevalent in man's nature, that in many cases would surely follow any personal confession.
- ❖ A feeling of unworthiness because we have failed God and therefore, we have failed ourselves and those around us.
- ❖ An unwillingness to do things God's way and not our way
- ❖ The short-term feeling of belonging, as others belong, to the worldly ways of Satan

James 5:13-16

The Prayer of Faith

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. **Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**

In the above scripture verses, James tells us a few things. He tells us to pray, if we are in trouble, if we are happy; and finally, to sing songs of praise and pray to

God. James tells us to call the elders of our church and have them pray over, for us, and to anoint us with oil in the name of the Lord. He goes on to affirm that prayers offered in faith will make the sick person well and the Lord will restore us; also, if we have sinned, we will be forgiven. James then tells us to confess our sins to each other so that we may be healed, Finally, he emphasises that the prayers of righteous people is a powerful and effective tool in communicating these things to each other and to our God.

So, what is preventing any of us from confessing our sins to each other and God, and then praying fervently and honestly for help and for forgiveness?

I would like you to close your eyes and hear my confession of sin today.

I have been a member of the Masonic Lodge for several years. I became a member of this fraternity because for many generations members of my family have been Masons. I have brothers, Uncles and many family members who have been or still are masons. I believed this would bring me into a closer relationship with my son, who was a Master of the Lodge we belonged to together. However, none of this happened. While I was the chaplain of our lodge, I tried to introduce the real God to the members, but was criticized and rebuked. I presented a Bible to a member on his attaining what they call the third degree or a master mason. I brought to the attention of the leaders the fact that article 38 of the constitution demanded we give third degree masons a Bible and explain its purpose and why they should read it, understand what God is telling us and implement these teachings in our lives; Still they refused. When the current master was elected, he promised to fight for and make changes so that God was given His rightful honour, praise and glory. This never happened. Finally, I withdrew from this organization because they did not want to worship God but to continue to mock Him and use Him as an implement in their ceremonies. The use of God in our lives is to glorify Him, not to use Him as a mini god or a tool in some fictitious ceremony or belief system.

So, I apologize to God for being there in the first place, for taking so long to confess of my sin and to ask for His forgiveness.

I have been doing research on my family history and discovered this fact. My grandfather on my father's side was not a mason. He attested to the fact he was a Methodist, when he joined the army in 1914. He was also a practising member of

the Anglican Church, all of his life. One thing he was not, was a mason. Maybe if I had studied these things beforehand, I would not have become a mason.

Life is not about what we should have or could have done differently, its about what we do when we find ourselves in error of Jesus's teachings and God's will for us in our lives. That is where confession and repentance become the guiding factors of what comes next. Please God, and my friends accept my apology and the confession of this sin in my life, of pride, arrogance, seeking worldly acceptance, and wanting to do things my way instead of God's way.

The first part of the Ten Commandments tells us:

The Ten Commandments

20 And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

All of these things are being done in the masonic lodge and many other places in our world today. Please pray with me that we keep our focus on God and what His will is for us and for this earth today, as it always has been.

Ed

Note:

As I was reading the Book on Holiness Teachings, by B.T. Roberts, I came across these words, that finally impressed upon me that I need to confess this before my prayer team.

“There is a powerful secret society, spreading itself throughout the country, composed largely of unbelievers, to which, however, many ministers and church-members belong. This society is thoroughly anti Christian in character. To pray in a lodge in the name of Christ is declared by the highest Masonic authority, to be a violation of the fundamental principles of masonry. The members bind themselves by the most horrid oaths to submit to be murdered, and conceal, and even commit murder under certain circumstances. Of these facts any intelligent person can easily satisfy himself beyond a shadow of a doubt. Yet in many meetings held for the promotion of holiness, to point out these hindrances to promote holiness would be considered to be impertinent and fanatical.

Again, the persecution to which the saints of God have always been subjected shows that holiness is not recognized when it is seen. The Word declares,

2 Timothy 3:12

“Yea and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

Roberts goes on to say the following:

The persecution varies in its form with the prevailing spirits of the age, but whatever shape it assumes, persecution never assigns as its reason, the godliness of its victim. Their obstinacy or contumacy, or disloyalty, or heresy is assigned as the cause of their sufferings. Christ was put to death as an imposter. Luther was excommunicated as a heretic, and Wesley and Whitefield were hunted as fanatics. Their persecutors were the professed children of God, and they believed it to be their zeal for holiness which instigated their opposition to those who furnished bright examples of holiness in their lives.”

Holiness Teachings of B.T. Roberts, page 14 para 2&3.

Our Prayer

- Heavenly Father, we acknowledge You as the One, true living God
- We pray that Your will be done on earth and in us as it is in heaven
- Thank you for the guidance and persistence of Your Holy Spirit
- For give us for our sins of self-righteousness, of arrogance, of not putting You first, always in our lives
- Forgive us for not always responding immediately to the prompting of Your Holy Spirit, to do Your Will, and to follow Your ways
- Forgive us for seeking worldly acceptance ahead of You
- Thank you that Jesus gave up His life on the cross for my/our sins

We give You all the praise, the honour and the glory, in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen