

Sermon Notes

By Confession - James 5:16

October 25, 2026

I. Introduction

When you don't have a sense of complete forgiveness, you will constantly be on an emotional seesaw. Sometimes you feel you are right with God, other times you don't. It's a constant cycle of insecurity where you hop in and out of God's favor. God does not evaluate you on your behavior. The cross of Jesus has qualified you for blessings. Unbelief disqualifies you. Your part is to believe. Joseph Prince

- a. knowledge of salvation... *benefits and blessings that are the present possession of all true Christians...* is found when we understand forgiveness...
Luke 1:77... "give His people a knowledge of salvation thru forgiveness of sins..."
Acts 4:12... "salvation in no one else... no other name by which we are saved..."
soteria/sozo... *deliverance, rescue, safety, healing, welfare, prosperity, victory...*
Eph 1:7... "in Him... thru His blood... have forgiveness of sins... thru riches of grace..."
Heb 9:22... "without the shedding of blood... there is no forgiveness..."
aphesis... *release from bondage; let go as if they have never been committed...*
- b. knowing we are forgiven by grace helps us grow... forgiveness does not lead to sin...
Rom 6:14-15... "sin will not rule... because you are not under law, but under grace..."
Titus 2:11-12... "grace has appeared, bringing salvation... deny sin... live godly lives..."
2Pet 1:5-9... "His great promises enable us to escape corruption from evil desire... for this reason... make every effort to respond... add to your faith... goodness, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, kindness, love... if these qualities are increasing... they keep you from being unfruitful... whoever lacks these qualities has forgotten they have been cleansed from their old sins..."
- c. forgiveness is extremely important... so are biblical confession and repentance... pray...

II. By Confession

- a. confession and repentance are often very misunderstood in the church...
*Confession always referred to sin and sharing everything I had done wrong.
I was scared to death, thinking the priest would scold me for disappointing God.
It meant you had to tell God every sin you had done and do something to make it right.
Informing God of my sin, as if He didn't know, and telling Him how good I'd be in the future.*
- b. Biblical Confession
set aside etp... interested in what the Bible says about confession... most etp incorrect...
Matt 3:6... "baptized by John in the Jordan River... confessing their sins..."
Acts 19:18... "many who became believers confessed their sinful practices..."
James 5:16... "confess your sins to one another and pray for one another..."
exomologeo... *to confess; acknowledge openly and joyfully, to celebrate, give praise...*
Rom 10:9-10... "confess with your mouth... *Jesus is Lord*... and you will be saved..."
Heb 13:11-16... "Jesus sanctified the people with His own blood... continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise... lips that confess His name... God is pleased with such sacrifices..."
1John 1:9... "if we confess our sins... He is faithful to forgive us..."
homologeo... *say the same thing as; agree with; not refuse or deny; declare openly...*

what can we agree with... joyfully celebrate and praise... not deny when it comes to sin...
Eph 4:32... "forgive each other... just as God also forgave you in Christ..."
Col 1-2-3... "He forgave our sins... forgave all our sins... the Lord has forgiven you..."

biblical confession is not sharing what you did wrong... it's sharing everything Jesus did right... agreeing with and praising God... sins are already forgiven and forgotten... not asking God to take them away... its joyfully acknowledging they're already gone...
Isa 43:25... "I will obliterate your sins for My sake... never think of them again..."
1John 2:12... "I'm writing... your sins have been forgiven on account of His name..."

biblical confession is healthy... not price we pay to receive forgiveness... helps us admit there's nothing good we can do to be forgiven... simply opens the door for God's grace...
Heb 4:16... "let us approach throne of grace with boldness... receive mercy and grace..."
James 4:6... "He gives greater grace... God resists proud... gives grace to the humble..."
1Pet 5:7... "cast all your cares on Him... because He cares about you..."

can help to tell our struggles to a friend... sin thrives in darkness and silence... sin always destructive... only thing that breaks its power is what Jesus has done... He brings victory...
Psa 32:3-6... "when I refused to confess... my body wasted away... I groaned all day long... my strength evaporated... finally, I confessed all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide my guilt... and You forgave me... all my guilt is gone... therefore, the godly will not drown in judgement..."
1Thess 5:5... "we are children of light... we do not belong to the darkness..."
Jam 5:16 **MSG**... "confess your sins to each other... so you can live whole and healed..."

Sin + silence = suffering. Sin + confession = healing. Dr. Paul Ellis

c. Biblical Repentance

repentance is similar in OC and NC... simply means *change your mind for the better*... not just turning from sin... can turn from one sin to another... it's turning back to God...
Job 36:10... "He opens their ears to correction... tells them to repent from sin..."
Eze 18:30... "repent... turn away from all your sins..."
sub... *to return, come back; restore, refresh, repair; to bring back; turn away or toward...*
Matt 4:17... "repent of your sins... turn to God... the kingdom of heaven is near..."
Luke 5:32... "I have not come to call the righteous... but sinners to repentance..."
Acts 20:21... "declared that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith..."
Acts 26:20... "I preached that they should repent and turn to God..."
metanoeo... *a change of mind; to change one's mind for the better...*

religious repentance typically involves gsc... fixing what you broke... biblical repentance is a response to what Jesus has done... heart change that is followed by praise and thanks...
Hosea 14:2... "words of repentance to God... repay with praise from our lips..."
Luke 15:7... "more joy over one sinner who repents than 99 righteous people who don't need to..."
Acts 11:18... "they glorified God saying... He has given repentance resulting in life..."
Rom 2:4... "are you [actually] unaware [of the fact] God's kindness leads to repentance..."
Rom 7:24-25... "how miserable I am... who will rescue me... thank God for Jesus..."

religion puts the focus of repentance on you... grace puts the focus on Jesus... biblical repentance happens every week here... Good News about Jesus is preached... people change their minds for the better... transformation happens when you look to Jesus...
Mark 1:15... "the time has come... repent and believe the Good News..."
Rom 10:14-17... "faith comes by hearing... hearing the message about Christ..."
Rom 12:2... "do not conform to the world... be transformed by renewing your mind..."
2Cor 3:5-18... "minds were hardened... at reading of OC, veil remains... only removed in Christ... where the Spirit is, there is freedom... we, with unveiled faces... when gazing at the goodness of God... are being transformed into the same image... by the Holy Spirit..."

- d. truth about confession and repentance will set you free... it's all about Jesus... pray...
John 8... "truth will set you free... if the Son sets you free, you really will be free..."