

CONFESSION OF SINS
BY BELIEVERS

Pastor Gary Glenney

March 27, 2013

1. The first mention of confession of personal sins for believers is found in Levit. 5:5. According to the Mosaic Covenant, two things are needed for forgiveness of sins:
 - a. Confess the sin(s) to God.
 - b. Make an offering to God to remove the sin(s).
 - (1) Make a guilt or trespass offering for any known sin(s). (Levit. 5:6a, 14-19)
 - (2) Make a sin offering for any unknown sin(s). (Levit. 5:6b, 12, 13; 4:1-3, 20)
2. In addition, if the sin is against another person or is a crime, then restitution shall be made also. (Num. 5:5-7)
3. David confessed his sin to the Lord and received forgiveness. (Psa. 32:1-5)
4. David has great pain of soul and much anxiety because of his iniquity (sin). Therefore, *"I must confess (it)."* (Psa. 38:17, 18)
5. David declared that his sin is against God and prayed for God to be gracious and heal his soul. (Psa. 41:1)
6. David asked that his sins be blotted out and that he be cleansed from his sin. (Psa. 51:1-13)
7. David states that the man who confesses his transgressions (sins) and forsakes them will find compassion from the Lord. (Prov. 28:13)
8. Paul writes to the Corinthian church that we as believers must examine (judge) ourselves rightly that we are not disciplined by the Lord. (1 Cor. 11:31)
9. Paul writes that all believers should cleanse themselves *"from all defilement of flesh and spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God."* (2 Cor. 7:1) This cleansing can only be accomplished by confession of sins because apart from Him we can do nothing. (John 15:5) Jesus Christ fulfilled the guilt and sin offerings once for all time. (Heb. 10:10-12; cf. Isa. 53:4-8, 10-12)
10. The writer of the book of Hebrews commands believers to *"lay aside every encumbrance (distraction) and the sin which so easily entangles us."* (Heb. 12:1)

The implication of the phrase, “*laying aside...the sin,*” must again refer to confession of sin(s).

11. James declares to believers that Christian growth can only be accomplished if we are first “*putting aside all filthiness and (all) that remains of wickedness.*” (James 1:21a) Again, putting aside all filthiness and wickedness can only be accomplished by confession of sin(s).

12. The command “*Cleans your hands you sinners, and purify your hearts,*” also implies personal confession of sins). (James 4:8)

13. John states clearly, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just (righteous) to forgive us our (known) sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (our unknown sins).*” (1 John 1:9)

14. John further states that every believer who has this hope (of resurrection) on Him continually purifies (cleanses) himself. (1 John 3:3; cf. John 15:5)

15. The command to “*be filled with the (Holy) Spirit*” must be the resulting spiritual state of a believer who has confessed his or her sin(s) and therefore has fellowship with the Lord. (Eph. 5:18; with 1 John 1:3; cf. Rom. 8:4, 5, 12, 13, 14; Gal. 5:16, Gal. 5:18, 22, 25)

Other examples:

Foot washing (John 13:3-11):

Parables in Luke (Luke 15:1-32):

1. Lost sheep
2. Lost piece of silver
3. Lost son