



## The Lost Art of Receiving Forgiveness Part 3

Lesson Four

### Recovering the Lost Art of Receiving Forgiveness

### CLEARING UP the Confusion About Confession. 1John 1:5-2:2

- Fact #1** Sin *always separates us* from a totally holy God. (1:5)  
**Fact #2** God *forgave us and all our sins* in Christ Jesus by His atoning blood sacrifice. (2:1-2)  
**Fact #3** Forgiven believers *still sin* and need to confess their sins to receive God's forgiveness. (1:6-2:1)  
**Fact #4** There are *two kinds* of forgiveness in Christ. (1:5-2:2)

### RECEIVING Forgiveness After Forgiveness.

#### 1. John the Apostle TAUGHT the condition of forgiveness to his disciples in 1 John 1:9.

##### The Basic Idea

*"Acknowledging your agreement with someone about something"*

##### The Biblical Idea

*"Acknowledging your agreement with GOD about your SIN!"*

*"Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you and wronged You by (name you sin), therefore, I owe You and I am indebted to You!"*

#### 5 Aspects to Confession

- 1) AGREEING with God about your sin as you see it in light of His character, His perspective, and His standards.
- 2) ADMITTING that you have sinned in a specific way.
- 3) ACCEPTING responsibility for your sin before God first and foremost.
- 4) ASKING for forgiveness and restored fellowship.
- 5) AFFIRMING that God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
*Thank You for giving me forgiving me in Christ and restoring the joy of my salvation and my fellowship with You and others. Give me grace to face the consequences and any permanent fall out.*

#### 2. David the Forgiven Sinner MODELED the joy of confession, forgiveness, and cleansing to God's people in Psalms 32 and 51.

### 3. Jesus the Master DEMONSTRATED the necessity of frequent confession, forgiveness, and cleansing to His disciples in John 13:4-11.

#### 2 Words for “Wash”

- 1) “**Bathed**” = *in the perfect tense* = Once for all in the past with ongoing result of being in a state cleanliness!
- 2) “**Wash**” = *in the present and aorist tense* = A repeated act when needed!

#### 2 Extremes to Avoid

- 1) Thinking you’re TOO GOOD to *never* confess your sin!
- 2) Thinking you’re SO BAD you need be saved *again*!

#### 3 Principles to Remember

- 1) Salvation from our *sin* happens once and all our *sins* (past, present, future) are forgiven and washed by the blood of Jesus.
- 2) Confession of *sins* is repeated frequently (at the very least daily!) to receive forgiveness and cleansing whenever and wherever needed.
- 3) Confession of *sins* is never the basis of our salvation in the Son or acceptance by the Father.

### 4. Jesus the Storyteller ILLUSTRATED confession, forgiveness, and cleansing to his disciples in Luke 15:11-24.

#### 5 Stages to Confessing Sin and Receiving Forgiveness

- 1) **The RETURNING Stage:** *Run to the Father with a humble and broken (contrite) heart.*
- 2) **The REPENTING Stage:** *Turn from your sin by forsaking it and being willing to make restitution if necessary.*
- 3) **The REQUESTING Stage:** *Ask for forgiveness by confessing your sin –verbally acknowledging your guilt and responsibility for the wrong from your heart.*
- 4) **The RECEIVING Stage:** *Receive the free gift of forgiveness from your heavenly Father by trusting His character, His promises, and His provision in the person and finished work of Jesus.*
- 5) **The REJOICING Stage:** *Rejoice with a thankful heart before the Father by acknowledging His gracious character and mighty works in Jesus by the Spirit.*

### Receiving Forgiveness After Forgiveness Through Confession of Your Sins Is a Blessing that Will Set You Free to Be Forgiving Toward Others!

*How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!  
How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!  
When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. **Selah.**  
I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide;  
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”;  
And You forgave the guilt of my sin. **Selah.**  
Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; **Psalms 32:1-6***