

Confession Is Good for the Soul

We've heard this all our lives. Is it true? Is there something about confession that is good for us? What does the Bible say?

Revealed in the New Testament are two kinds of confession. There is *confession of our belief* that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8:37). There is also *the confession of sin*, taught by John (Matt 3:6) and practiced in the church by Jesus' disciples (Acts 19:18).

Salvation results when we are willing to confess our belief in Christ (Rom 10:8-10). So, yes, this confession is very good for the soul, even necessary (Matt 10:32-33)!

A closer look at the practice of confessing sin reveals several things in the New Testament. First of all; "If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 Jn 1:8). "If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us" (1 Jn 1:10). King David recalled living in denial of sin and the misery it brought (Psalm 32:3-4). Denying or hiding sin in our lives not only condemns the soul, but weighs heavy on our hearts and minds! Let's always be open and honest about our frailties and shortcomings.

None of us live this life perfectly and God wants us to acknowledge that. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn 1:9). Confession of sin to God is very good for the soul because: 1) it brings cleansing and forgiveness, 2) humbles the soul, 3) reminds us of our need to improve, 4) exalts the sinless life of our Lord, 5) magnifies our need for God's grace and 6) makes us thankful for the cleansing blood of Jesus. Enumerating specific sins to God helps us even more. Try it; you may like it!

Confessing our sin before God is vital, but we also sometimes need to confess our sins one

to another. James 5:16 states: "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." Here in the preceding verses, we have prayer offered on behalf of the sick and also for forgiveness of sins. The end of verse 16 again emphasizes the need for prayer and its power. Sandwiched in between all this prayer, James inserts confession to one another. We have an example of believers confessing their sin to one another in Acts 19:18. The original Greek here suggests these people had believed at some point in the past and were presently still believers. What did they do when confronted with sin in their lives? They came confessing and disclosing their practices! Confessing our sins to one another is good for the soul because: 1) it allows us to heal, 2) it is a way to make our penitent intentions known to others, 3) it enables our brethren to pray more accurately for our souls, 4) it allows the healing of broken relationships personally and congregationally and 5) it promotes humility, transparency, honesty and trust.

Sometimes as Christians we stray from God. We may find ourselves like Simon in Acts 8 where our "heart is not right before God" (v.21). We too may be "in the bondage of iniquity" (v.23). God's solution for the erring Christian is simple. Peter told Simon to "**repent** of this wickedness of yours, and **pray** the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you" (v.22). Simon then asked for their help in prayer. If our sin has become known to others or affected them, then confession of our sin to one another informs them of our desire to repent and do better. It allows others to accurately pray for our forgiveness and healing.

Indeed, confession is good for the soul!

John Deffenbaugh

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Kay Anderson, Pat Andrews, Travis Bell, Carol Bessman, Fred Bukowich, Kim Cable, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tammy Crawford, Don Deffenbaugh, Beth Foster, Joe and Teresa Freund, Pete Griffin, Glen Honeycutt, Molly Jackson, Wayne King, Shanna Kraft (Cheryl's daughter), Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Mebyl Privett, Brandon Ross (Debi's grandson), Harold Speir, Edith Toney, Lisa Toney, Ken Tyler.

- Kathy Friend remains in rehab in Carthage.
- Glen Honeycutt will have surgery tomorrow.
- Our heartfelt sympathy to the entire **Hyder family** on the death of Lenora's niece who died this past week in an automobile accident.
- Our sympathy to the family of Wanda Cope, former member, who died Friday. Service information is available from Smith Funeral Home in Hot Springs, AR.



every **ONE** counts!

Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. If you know someone in need, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts is Tuesday morning at 7:00 in the activities center. Invite your friends and join us in this morning devotional. This will be the last one for the calander year. The next one will be January 10.



If you can't be here when we **worship**, visit our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel to join us live or to catch up on what you missed.

Today's Sermons



A.M.: *The Truth About Truth*
(John Deffenbaugh)

P.M.: *There is No Fear in Love*
(I John 4:18, Caleb Boggs)

The youth and their sponsors will be returning today from their **House Retreat**. Continue to pray for their safe return.

Please return the gifts for our **Bright Futures Christmas Family** today. Also give cash donations to Brenda to help a **second family** from the Neosho Christian School. Thank you for your help in both of these endeavors!

Wednesday **Family Meal** is Dec. 14. Sign up in the foyer for a BBQ dinner. It will be provided by the hostess groups of Heather Reiboldt/Ginger Murray and Carla Murray/Kayla Hayes. Dinner starts at 6:00 in the activities center.

On Thursday night, the **Senior Saints** are going for a Christmas dinner and a road trip to Carthage to see the light displays. They will leave the parking lot at 4:00 and drive to Sirloin Stockade. Let Mike Kidwell, Cheryl Williamson or Lynda Holverson know if you need a ride to get to the church building.

The Pendergrafts will be hosting a **young adults** "Friendmas" party this Saturday at 6:30. You are asked to bring a dish for the potluck dinner and a \$5 white elephant gift. Holiday sweaters or attire are encouraged. RSVP to Jonathan or Laurel.

Sign up now for **Challenge Youth Conference** in Dallas on January 13-15. The sign up deadline is Wednesday.

New Devo for grades 7-12 and their families will be next Sunday after evening services at the home of Caleb and Bethany Boggs.

Please sign the **birthday cards** on the welcome desk for some children at Fair Haven.

Taylor and Victoria Keith will be having their **baby** soon. There is a basket in the foyer if you would like to leave a gift for them.

Continue to pray for Danny, David Deffenbaugh, Zane Copeland and Roger Leonard as they finish the work and return from **Honduras**.

Thank you all so much for the plant, cards, thoughts and prayers during the loss of my grandma. Please continue to lift my family and me up in your prayers. Thank you.

Dakota Miller and Family

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

AM Opening Prayer: Trace Williams
AM Closing Prayer: Wayne Douthitt
Communion Prayers: Jason Giebler
PM Opening: Jackson Collinsworth
PM Closing: Jim Friend

This Wednesday

Announcements: Benny Haught
Singing: Alec Fehring
Invitation: Josh King
Opening Prayer: Miles Wolgamott
Closing Prayer: Carl Thomlinson

RECORDS

	12-4-22	12-5-21
Bible Study	152	133
AM Worship	187	168
PM Worship	96	93
Wednesday	127	130
Contribution	\$8,964.89	\$8,375.73
Budget	\$8,250.00	\$8,000.00