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SESSION 71

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION
SESSION 71 – FAITH PART 10
HOW TO TURN YOUR FAITH LOOSE – PART 1

Romans 10:10

“For with the HEART man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth CONFESSION is made unto salvation.”

Mark 11:23

“For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, ‘Be thou removed,’ and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

In our last two lessons we talked about the first part of **Romans 10:10** – about what it means to believe with the heart.

Now let’s look at the latter part of this verse: ***“...with the mouth CONFESSION is made unto salvation...”***

FOUR KINDS OF CONFESSION

You will find four kinds of confessions spoken of in the New Testament. Let’s examine these closely because there is much confused thought in regard to the subject of confession.

1. The Jews’ Confession of Sin

First, there is the teaching of John the Baptist and Jesus’ teaching to the Jews which was the confession of their sins.

Mark 1:4-5: ***“4 John did baptize in the wilderness and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, CONFESSING THEIR SINS.***

Mark 1:14-15: ***“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying ‘The time is***

fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel”

2. THE CONFESSION OF THE SINNER UNDER THE NEW COVENANT

Second, there is the confession of the sinner under the New Covenant. Jesus made a very important statement in the New Testament in **John 16:7-11** concerning the sinner under the New Covenant

John 16:7-11:

“⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. ⁸ and when he is come, HE WILL REPROVE THE WORLD OF SIN, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ Of sin, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE NOT ON ME; ¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; ¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”

Notice Jesus said, *“Of sin, because they believe not on me”* (vs. 9). Jesus tells us that the sinner will be convicted by the Holy Spirit of but one sin, and that is the sin of rejecting Jesus: *“...because they believe not on me [Jesus]”* (John 16:9).

How many times have we insisted that the sinner confess all the sins he’s ever committed in order to be saved? Actually, the sinner couldn’t confess all the sins he has ever committed. He couldn’t even think of everything he has ever done that was wrong. No, the main confession the sinner must make is the Lordship of Jesus.

Romans 10:9 says, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

3. THE BELIEVER’S CONFESSION OF HIS SINS

The third confession in the New Testament is the *believer’s confession of his sins when he is out of fellowship with God*. (**1 John 1:9**). That broken fellowship many times may cause sickness, because in **James 5:16** it says, *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, THAT YE MAY BE HEALED...”*

4. THE BELIEVER'S CONFESSION OF FAITH

The fourth kind of confession spoken of in the bible is the *confession of our faith in the Word, in Christ, and in God the Father.*

These are the four kinds of confessions that we are going to discuss in this session.

It is important that we make the distinction here between the confession of sins of the Jews under the Old Covenant to whom Jesus and John the Baptist were talking, and the confession of sins of the sinner under the New Covenant who has never met Christ.

(1) THE JEWS CONFESSION OF SIN

Matthew 3:5-6 says,

“⁵ Then went out to him (John) Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, ⁶ and were baptized of him in Jordan, CONFESSING THEIR SINS.”

Here is the picture of God's covenant people confessing their sins and being baptized by John. This is not Christian baptism. Jesus had not yet died and risen. John did not baptize in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost; he only baptized in the name of the Father. These were Jews under the Law, and under the Old Covenant, before Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

In Acts 19:18 we read, ***“And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.”*** These were Gentiles or non-Jewish Christians. It does not say what they confessed, but it is evident that they were believers who were confessing their sins of practicing magical arts.

But now I want you to notice something. They were not confessing these sins in order to get saved. They were already saved. These Gentile Christians did not confess these sins, nor did they give up these practices in order to get saved. The Bible says they were already saved. But you see, after they were saved, those sins and wrong practices were easier to confess.

So many times, people have gotten the cart before the horse. For example, they tell sinners, “You are going to have to quit this, and you are going to have to quit that in order to be saved.”

But actually, the sinner must accept the Lordship of Jesus, and then those other things will take care of themselves.

SALVATION IS NOT BASED ON WHAT YOU GIVE UP

A missionary for a certain denomination was in Brazil. He told about what happened in Brazil. In just a span of a few years in the 1950's 268,000 people were saved and nearly 100,000 were baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking with other tongues. In a year's time they built more than one hundred churches. That's revival, especially when you realize that ninety-nine percent of the people to whom they were preaching were Roman Catholic.

This missionary said "I spent seven years in Brazil where he had a little mission station. His highest attendance in Sunday school was only thirty-seven and after seven years with so little results he came back to the states discouraged. He then went back to Brazil to spend time studying God's word, fasting, and praying. As he waited upon God, he didn't preach against anything; he didn't tell people what they had to give up in order to be saved. He just began to preach what the Word said.

The Catholics had one song about the blood of Jesus, so he adopted this as the theme song and started to hold tent meetings. When the Brazilian people came, who were largely Catholic, they came in droves. They asked the missionary and his helpers if they were Catholic, and they replied with, "Yes, but not Roman Catholic."

The missionary explained, "After all, we are Catholic in the sense that we believe there is just one Church. The word "catholic" means general, or universal Christian church. There is but one Church, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He went on to say, "I just didn't say Roman Catholic! But because we preached the word and didn't preach against anyone's religion or what people had to give up, we saw people saved by the droves."

The missionary said, "For example, I remember one woman in her early sixties came to him after she was saved and had received the Holy Ghost, and said she wanted to talk to me. She said, "Since I've come here and have been filled with the Holy Ghost, I just can't get anything out of Mass. In fact, I hardly ever go anymore. I think I'll just quit altogether. What do you suggest?"

The missionary answered, "I don't have any suggestions. Just follow your own convictions and let the Lord lead you."

He said, "A few days later she told him that she had just stacked up all those religious icons, and had thrown them into the trash can and had quit going to Mass. She said, 'I think I'll come over and join your church.' He replied, 'You are welcome if the Lord leads you that way.'"

The way this missionary handled this situation was much better than trying to tell this woman what to do; he allowed her to be led by the Holy spirit who was her Guide (**John 16:13**).

I believe we would do a lot better if we just used a little wisdom in some of these areas. We do not need to fight anyone, nor tell people what they have to give up; we just need to preach the Word and tell them what to believe and confess – that Jesus is Lord.

(2) THE CONFESSION THE SINNER MAKES

A pastor visited a husband and wife in their home. The wife was saved but the man wasn't. The pastor invited the man to church but he said "No, I am not going." Now he had gone to church before but now he was very antagonistic. The pastor thought he had done something that displeased him so apologized. The man said, "O, no, it isn't you. I don't want you to think that. I am not going to church because when I go, I get under conviction."

The Pastor said, "That is what we want you to do."

The man replied with, "My wife just this morning at the table asked me why I didn't give up this and that and get saved. She doesn't know it, but for weeks at a time I have given up those things, and I always go back to them. I have tried it and there is no use in my coming to church because I just can't seem to give those things up."

The real truth about that situation is that he didn't have to give up anything or quit anything in order to get saved. In **Romans 10:9**, it tells us how to get saved. It says, ***"...if thou shalt CONFESS WITH THY MOUTH THE LORD JESUS, AND SHALT BELIEVE IN THINE HEART THAT God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."***

Notice it says, ***"That if thou shalt CONFESS..."***

This is the real confession the sinner makes. He has served Satan. He is guilty of only one sin in the sight of God and that is the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Therefore, God demands that the sinner confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This is real repentance. This is real faith.

To demand that a sinner confess his sins before God can make him a new creature is just as sensible as it would be for the governor of a state to say to a prisoner behind bars. "I'm going to parole you, if you will confess that you are in prison." The fact that prisoner is in prison is a self-evident fact.

And it is self-evident that the sinner is a child of the devil. The thing that the sinner must confess is the Lordship of Christ. He must confess Jesus as His savior in order to be saved. He must let Jesus dominate his daily life. Confessing the Lordship of Jesus is the very heart of the gospel.

Once a person is born again, God will deal with him about the things he needs to change and will give him the power to change. I like to say that Jesus catches the fish first then cleans it.

Now notice again the phrase, ***"...thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus..."*** (Romans 10:9.) In other words, there must be a vocal confession by a person of the Lordship of Jesus – his lips must frame the words. That confession is not only for his own sake, but it is for the sake of those unsaved people in the world around us. It is also for the benefit of Satan, declaring that you are no longer under his dominion (Ephesians 1:19-21).

A preacher holding meetings in a town was asked to pray for a man. This man had been coming to an early morning prayer meeting for over six months five days a week and still was not saved. Since these men all worked days and could not come to the day services the preacher held, he agreed to have a service on Saturday night for several weeks just for the men. This man came with his bible with him.

The moment that the preacher met the man the Holy Spirit told the preacher what was wrong. A few testimonies were being given while everyone was getting settled for the bible study. The preacher told this man to "Get up and testify and confess that you are saved."

This startled the man and he looked around and stammered and stuttered and said, "Well, I am not saved yet."

The preacher said, "I know it. You have your bible there in your hand. Open it to Romans 10:9 and 10 and read that aloud." And he read the following verses:

Romans 10:9-10: ***"9That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."***

The preacher said, "Read that last clause again."

He read, ***"...and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."***

The preacher said, "Certainly you can't be saved until you confess. And it is with the mouth that confession is made unto your salvation. Now stand and confess that you are saved."

“Well,” he said, “I don’t feel like I am saved.”

The preacher said, “Certainly, you don’t. You can’t feel something that you don’t have, and you can’t have it until you confess it.”

He said, “Well, I don’t much believe I want to do that.”

The preacher said, “If I understand it correctly you’ve been coming to this church and praying for six months.”

He said, “Yes, I sure have. I have wept and cried and repented and called upon the Lord up and down these aisles for six months.”

The preacher said, “All you lack is standing on this verse. That’s why I want you to stand up and confess that you are saved.”

“No, I don’t much believe I will,” he said.

Then the preacher actually startled himself. Before he knew it, the Spirit of God motivated him and he found himself pointing his finger at the man and saying, “I command you to stand and confess your salvation in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.” The preacher spoke with such anointing and authority that the man got up from there immediately and looked around about half-scared.

He said, “Well, I do believe these verses, that Jesus died for my sins and that He was raised from the dead. God raised Him up for my justification, so I just take Him as my Savior and confess Him as my Lord.” Then he sat down really quickly.

To get the attention away from him the preacher had another man testify. Several others testified and the preacher looked back over at this man and his face was lit up like a neon sign in the dark.

He said to him, “Now, stand up and testify.”

This time it didn’t take a second for the man to leap to his feet and shouted and said, “You know, when I said that, something happened down inside of me.”

The preacher said, “Sure something happened on the inside of you. Eternal life was imparted to your spirit.”

You see, with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. That is the confession that the sinner is to make.

Matthew 10:32-33

“Whosoever therefore shall CONFESS ME before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”

Notice that in the new birth, that is, in receiving eternal life, there must be public confession. Public confession is really making the break with the world. It is a change of lordship; it defines our position. The confession of the Lordship of Jesus puts us immediately under Jesus’ supervision, care, and protection.

Satan was once our lord, but we changed lords. When we take Jesus as our Savior and confess Him, Jesus becomes our Lord. Jesus becomes our Head and Master. So let’s hold fast to the confession of the Lordship of Jesus.

He is my Lord. Is He your Lord? Not only confess Jesus’ Lordship to yourself, and not only confess it to the devil, but Jesus also said to confess it before men: *“Whosoever therefore shall confess me BEFORE MEN...”* (Matt. 10:32). So, confess the Lordship of Jesus before others too.

(3) THE BELIEVER CONFESSING HIS SINS

Notice that the third kind of confession that is spoken of in the New Testament is the believer confessing his sin when he has broken fellowship. In Psalm 137 we see a type of broken fellowship.

Psalm 137:1-4

“¹By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. ²We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst there. ³For there they that carried us away required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion.’ ⁴How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?”

In Psalm 137 we see that Israel had sinned. They were carried away into captivity in Babylon. They could remember Zion, of course. Their harps were hung on the willows and when their enemies asked for a song, they cried, *“How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?”* (Ps. 137:4). This is a picture of broken fellowship.

We, as Christians, lose our testimony the moment we sin. Sin always puts the light out.

Faith has no song when fellowship is broken!

I John 1:3-10

“³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have FELLOWSHIP with us; and truly our FELLOWSHIP is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ and these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. ⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have FELLOWSHIP with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have FELLOWSHIP one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

Notice that the word “fellowship” is mentioned four times in these verses. Read these verses carefully and go over them again and again. They are not written to sinners. Don’t ever use these verses in praying for a sinner; they don’t belong to him.

These words are written to the believer. They were written first as a warning against broken fellowship. Second, they show the believer the way back into fellowship. If we say we have fellowship with the Lord and yet we walk in darkness, the Bible says we lie and do not tell the truth (I John 1:6).

In other words, God is saying that if I am out of fellowship and I declare that I am spiritually all right, I am not telling the truth, because I am not all right with God. If I say I have not committed sin, and yet my fellowship with God is broken, then my faith is feeble.

Then God says if I confess my sins, He is faithful and just to forgive my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9). It is important to not take verses of scripture out of context. Some people take verse 10 which says, “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us,” out of context. Do not take that verse and try to apply it to everyone. This verse is talking about the person who has been born again but who is out of fellowship with God and will not admit it.

Let us say this, if you have sinned, you know it. And if you do not know it for goodness' sake don't be trying to drag up something to condemn yourself with. When you are always looking for something to condemn yourself with you are robbing yourself of faith. If you sin you know it! The minute you sin, you know it on the inside of you; and if you do not know it then you need to get saved!

Christians have a "monitor" – the voice of our conscience – on the inside of each of us, and it lets us know when we have done something wrong. If you miss the mark and mess up in some way, do not wait to repent. Stop right then and say, "Lord, I missed it. Please forgive me!

He will do it, and then you can just keep walking in fellowship. ***"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"*** (1 John 1:9). If I confess my sins once, that moment he forgives me, and I can stand in His presence as though I had never sinned.

Once you confess a sin, don't keep confessing the same sins over and over again because that only builds weakness, doubt, and sin-consciousness into your spirit. If you confessed your sin once, God forgave you and He forgot it, so you need to forget it too. God has no memory of your sin once you truly repent and ask for forgiveness.

Isaiah 43:25

"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions...and will not remember thy sins."

Once you repent and ask forgiveness, God does not have any memory of the sin that broke your fellowship. Since God has no memory of it, then why should you have a memory of it? That is not Holy Spirit or God the Father condemning you. It is Satan who is keeping you thinking about that sin, so he has you at a disadvantage. The thing you must do is refuse to think upon that sin any longer. If you continue to condemn yourself once you have asked for forgiveness, your faith will be throttled and held in bondage

Psalm 103:1-3

"¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is with me, bless his holy name. ²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: ³Who FORGIVETH ALL THINE INIQUITIES; who healeth all thy diseases."

Christians often say, "I don't know if God will hear me or not when I pray." They often ask us to pray for them. They don't know whether God will hear them or not because they have sinned

and they have failed. But, if they have repented, God does not remember that they have done anything wrong.

Isaiah 1:18 *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”*

Psalm 103:12:

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”

(4) THE BELIEVER’S CONFESSION OF FAITH

Can you see with the confidence, faith, and boldness we get from these scriptures to come to Him?

Someone once said, “How does God forgive and wash my sins clean?” Well, I don’t know how He does it, but thank God He does it! You can’t figure God out. He’s too big. Let’s just walk in the truth we find in the scriptures!

So many people have talked themselves right out of faith. There is no need for that. If we have sinned and have asked God to forgive us, then He did and He forgot it and we should go forward. The believer must be willing to forgive himself just as Father God is willing to forgive him. Many people have robbed themselves of faith because they are not willing to forgive themselves. They hold themselves in a state of condemnation and it robs them of their faith.

James 5:14-15

“¹⁴Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him and anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: ¹⁵and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and IF HE HAVE COMMITTED SINS, THEY SHALL BE FORGIVEN HIM.”

Once a preacher was praying about a certain man that he knew that was involved in sin. In fact the man just kept stumbling over the same sin, doing the same thing again and again. As the preacher was praying about the fellow he said to the Lord, “I don’t know about this fellow. After all, he is committing the same sin over and over again.”

As he said that the Lord spoke to him, “In the first place, do you think that I would require and ask you to do something that I wouldn’t do?”

The preacher replied, "Why, no, Lord, certainly not."

The Lord continued speaking to him, "Didn't you ever read in My Word where Peter said, **'...Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?'**" (Matt. 18:21). Then the preacher understood what the Lord meant.

The Lord said, "I said to Peter, 'Not up to seven times, but seventy times seven.'" (490 times.)

Then the Lord spoke to the preacher, "Would I require you to do something that I wouldn't do?"

The preacher said, "No, that would be unjust, and You are not unjust."

"Well," the Lord said, "I'll forgive the man; you go ahead and pray with him."

Then, sometimes we may think about a person, "Yes, he's done wrong; he is going to reap results of his wrongdoing. In fact, we may think that he is sick now because he has done wrong." And sometimes broken fellowship will cause sickness. But the Word of God says, **"...and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."** (James 5:15.)

To be honest with you if you get a revelation of this it will bring fresh encouragement to be able to help others. Too often we have seen too many people talk themselves right out of faith due to condemnation about the past. They think they are going to lie on a bed of sickness because they have failed and sinned. But....oh thank God....the bible says, **"...the prayer of faith shall save [or heal] the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."** (James 5:15.)

There is healing in forgiveness. Can you see that? That is almost too much for us humans to comprehend sometimes but thank God for His grace. His grace is beyond our human comprehension.

You see, it makes all the difference in the world whether we look at things the way the Word of God says, or the way we think things should be. Oh, when we can see things God's way, what a big difference it makes! **"...If he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."** (James 5:15.)

When you understand the bible, you can understand why God does things the way He does. You can understand why and how things work many times.

Hebrews 10:1-4

“¹For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. ²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. ³But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. ⁴For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”

This passage of scripture tells of the failure of the blood of bulls and goats under the Old Covenant to take away sins. The blood of bulls and goats could only cover sins. Those animal sacrifices still left the sin in the heart of man. And with the sin was sin consciousness.

But God, in our redemption in Christ, has redeemed us from sin consciousness. Once we have asked forgiveness for our sins, we do not ever have to remember them again.

Hebrews 9:14

“¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, PURGE YOUR CONSCIENCE from dead works to serve the living God?”

I John 1:9

“⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to CLEANSE US from all unrighteousness.”

If you sin, and you repent and confess your sin to God, you should have no more remembrance of it. God doesn't, so why should you? Then you can see with what confidence we can come before God in prayer and know with a certainty that He hears us!