

## BIBLICAL PRAYER (31)

In a case like **I Corinthians 5**, private confession would not be enough. The sin had reached a level of public knowledge (**5:1**), which demanded public excommunication (**5:7, 11, 13**). Many believe that it was this proper handling of the sin that actually led to a restoration about two years later (**II Corinthians 2:5-11**).

One must be very careful when it comes to public confession of sin, because there are those certain people who will be happy to publicly confess sin when, in fact, they have never really honestly dealt with it before God. The leaders of the church must carefully determine when a public confession is demanded and if we consider all of the writings of Paul, it is clear that these cases are very rare.

Confession, private or public, is not easy but it is Biblical and it is right. When one chooses to sin and then chooses to go to God and confess it, this will lead to great blessing and fellowship with God.

It has been my own personal observation, as well as the observations of others who respond to this type of action, that when one makes proper confession to God and perhaps at times to the one(s) offended, there is an immediate lifting of burdens and supernatural peace and a cleanness that testifies of intimate fellowship with God.

Oftimes people will pray very generally, "forgive us our sins." One question that arises in this type of prayer is whether or not such a prayer is valid in light of the fact that true confession demands an exact Divine terminology of the sin. It is true that there are sins that people can commit in ignorance (i.e. **Lev. 4:2; 5:15-18**) and it is possible that there could be a time when this type of general prayer could be valid. However, most of the time when we confess sin, we should be honest enough to tell God exactly what the sin is that brought us to the point of confession.

This leads us to the question, "What if a believer refused to confess sin and refused to make it right?" What would be the results of the believer who refused to face sin honestly? There are at least nine potential negatives for the believer who refuses to confess sin:

- 1) There will be a loss of fellowship with God. **I John 1:3, 6-7**
- 2) There will be a loss of joy. **I John 1:4**
- 3) There will be a loss of fellowship with other believers. **I John 1:7**
- 4) There will be a loss of one's sense of security - spiritual, emotional, physical.  
**I John 2:5; 5:13**
- 5) There will be a loss of confidence in prayer. **I John 3:19-22**
- 6) There will be a loss of joy at the thought of Christ's return. **I John 2:28**
- 7) There potentially could be a loss of physical life. **I John 5:16**
- 8) There potentially could be public excommunication. **Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:5**
- 9) There will be a loss of rewards. **I Cor. 3:11-15; 9:25-27**

The prayer of confession is an extremely important prayer for the believer. When we sin, let us be quick to confess it to God and, if necessary, make it right with others.

## BIBLICAL PRAYER (32)

**Type #8** - There is the prayer for destruction or vindication. **Psalm 26; 35; 43; 54; 55; 109\***

This is the kind of prayer that is made by one who is right with God in regard to those who are trying to hurt and destroy one who is innocent and faithful.

These Psalms are called imprecatory Psalms, which in effect means to pray to God for Him to put some negative curse on someone. This is certainly not the norm of prayer and in the case of Job, he claimed he had never made such a prayer even against his own enemies (**Job 31:29-30**).

There are hints of this type of prayer even in the N.T. Age of Grace - **I Corinthians 5:4-5; I Timothy 1:20; I John 5:16**. It would seem that when such prayers are made, they are made by spiritually-minded individuals who, more than likely, are leaders of the church. But every believer would have this prayer at his or her disposal and ultimately it is God who determines what the answer will be.

All types of prayer are apparently important or else God would not have revealed them in His Word. The prayers of salvation, entreaty, prayer, intercession, thanksgiving, petition, confession and even destruction, are types of prayer God revealed.

**QUESTION #8** – What are the prerequisites that must be met by believers who want to move God by their prayers?

There are at least **seven prerequisites** that must be met if we are to expect to move God in prayer:

**Prerequisite #1** - A believer must be willing to obey the Scriptures. **John 15:7; I John 3:22; Jeremiah 7:13-16**

Time and time again, both the O.T. and the N.T. make it clear that if we want God to answer our prayers, we must be willing to submit ourselves to the Word of God. We must, at the precise moment we pray, be as consistent as we can in our attitudes, actions and beliefs, making certain they are in conformity to God's Word.

It is a very logical and natural conclusion that the more we know of the Word of God, the more potential we have for being powerful people of prayer. When we know much of the Word of God and are applying it to our lives, the potential of moving God through prayer is great. A life that lacks conformity to God's Word is one main reason many don't see God do too much in prayer.