



## MIGHTY MEN OF GOD

### Week Nine: “The Spiritual Disciplines – Part V”

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#### I. This week

- We want to talk about the spiritual discipline of \_\_\_\_\_
  - This is probably one of the least expected of the disciplines
  - It may also be one of the least practiced
- So what is it?

*“The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works.” – Augustine*

Confession – the radical meaning is “acknowledgement,” or “avowal,” with the implication of a change of conviction or of course of conduct on the part of the subject.

- A. Confession of \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 10:32-33)
- A public \_\_\_\_\_ of loyalty to God
  - A public declaration of \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ
  - A public announcement of \_\_\_\_\_ to His service
- B. Confession of \_\_\_\_\_
1. To God \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 32:5-6a; 1 John 1:9)
    - True repentance results in open confession of sin
    - It can be both \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
  2. To our \_\_\_\_\_ (James 5:16; Acts 19:18-20)
    - Confession functions \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship
    - It involves letting others we trust know our deepest \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

#### II. The Truth About Confession – Psalm 32

- Take a look back at Psalm 32
- The context: Probably the sequel to Psalm 51
- In Psalm 51, David confesses his sin with Bathsheba
- In Psalm 32, David describes the blessing of forgiveness

A. God’s forgiveness includes \_\_\_\_\_ of sin (Vs 1-2)

- Three words for sin:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – breaking away from God
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – missing the mark
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – that which is crooked, or morally distorted
  
- God forgives...
  - ... sins against Himself
  - ... large and small sins
  - ... intentional and unintentional sins
  - ... sins of commission (doing what you shouldn't do)
  - ... and sins of omission (not doing what you should)
  
- B. God's forgiveness clears the guilty \_\_\_\_\_
  - Three terms to describe His forgiveness:
    - God carries away your \_\_\_\_\_ of guilt – removes it, forgets it
    - God covers your \_\_\_\_\_ – He will never bring it up again
    - God cancels your \_\_\_\_\_ – nothing left for you to pay

### III. The joy of forgiveness

- Only available through the \_\_\_\_\_ of confession
  
- A. Confession means I acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_ of my sins (Vs 5)
  - An essential part of confession is ownership
  - Three times David acknowledged that the sins were his...
    - My sin*
    - My iniquity*
    - My transgressions*
  
- B. Confession means I don't \_\_\_\_\_ my sins (Vs 5)
  - We attempt to hide our sins by...
    - ... rationalizing
    - ... explaining
    - ... justifying
  
- C. Confession means I come back to God on His \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs 5)
  - Confession involves returning to a reality about...
    - ... myself
    - ... my sin
    - ... my God

### IV. Confession brings God's help

- A. Those who confess their sins gain God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs 5)
- B. Those who confess their sin gain God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs 6-7)
- C. Those who confess their sin gain God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs 8)
- D. Those who confess their sin gain God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs 10)
- E. Those who confess their sin gain God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs 11)