

Week 36
Confession

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

The apostle John tells the church,

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” – 1 John 1:8-9

We will never grow in our faith, never become mature followers of Christ, never reach our full potential as humans created in the image of God until we learn to confess our sins. This does not mean that confession is some magical act whereby through listing sins they vanish into thin air. No, confession is the outward expression of a heart that acknowledges God’s truth. When we confess we express all of the following truths:

- Our weakness – When we sin, we lose the battle between the desires of our flesh and the desires of God. We lose the battle because in the moment we are weak, we lose focus, we think short-term. In our weakness, we grab for a quick fix to our deepest yearnings. We reach out for a mere substitute of real life. Instead of love, we settle for acceptance. Instead of joy, we settle for entertainment. Instead of peace, we settle for money. Confessing sin involves confessing our weakness.
- Our willfulness - When we confess our sin we acknowledge that our sin was a deliberate choice. We recognize that we had options, there was the option to not sin, but we chose to sin. Our sin is an act of rebellion against God.
- God’s power for us – after Paul says that “all sin and fall short of the glory of God” he tells us that in Christ we have a new power over sinfulness. God’s Holy Spirit enables us to conquer and defeat sinfulness in our lives. Little by little, by setting our minds upon the power of God we defeat sin (Rom 8). When we confess our sin, we acknowledge that we have the power to do better.
- God’s faithfulness – When we confess we acknowledge our confidence that God forgives our sins. Our confession is not a magic phrase that unlocks the door of forgiveness. God forgives without demanding payment. Christ’s sacrifice expresses God’s love for us, it was not an act of appeasing God’s anger. When we confess we express confidence in God’s love and forgiveness.

This Week

- Spend time in prayer confessing specific sins to the Father and listen for him to say, “I remember your sin no more.”

Week 36

Sep 5-11

Sun	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			5
Love Compels Us (4)				
Mon Labor Day	1Kng 12	2Cor 2	Prov 6	6
Tue	1Kng 13	2Cor 3	Prov 7	7
Wed	1Kng 14	2Cor 4	Prov 8	8
Thr	1Kng 15	2Cor 5	Prov 9	9
Fri Gregory Lee	1Kng 16,17	2Cor 6	Prov 10	10
Sat				11