

“For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.” Psalms 38:18 KJV

Perhaps the reason we do not feel forgiven after confessing our sin to God has much to do with our heart attitude when coming to Him and when we go. Am I truly sorry? Saying what you did may be of what a confession is comprised, but repeating a list of your sins to God without repentance is not true confession in the Biblical sense! Repentance is forsaking the path of sin and turning by faith to the path of obedience to God’s Word. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* Sins are not cleansed without repentance. *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out”* Jesus did *“not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”* If you come to confession with God with any other motive than repentance, you are self-righteous and God is not calling you. Not sorry you were caught, but remorseful; knowing your sin is why His back was stripped of its flesh, why His head was pierced with thorns, and why spikes pierced His hands and feet! He knows your heart. *“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.”* Acknowledging ownership of sin without excuse or blame, coming to God with the purpose of forsaking sin, not returning to it, and pleading for mercy for our sin is when God grants forgiveness. Cleansing of sin comes through return to obedience of God’s Word. *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word.”* It is a change of direction, focus, and lifestyle. If you want to go to London, you don’t get on a plane to New York. You buy the right ticket, go to the right gate and at the right time. You don’t just board any plane and hope you make it! God’s Word says, *“Now, is the day of salvation,”* not after you die. Forgiveness was purchased at Calvary for all who repent and forsake sin. If not, there’s no mercy! Repeating or reading a prayer isn’t repentance, does not convert, nor save your soul. Your lips must echo your sorrowful heart cry to God for His mercy and grace. *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* If what you say isn’t directly from your heart, you lie! *“He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him.”* You don’t think God knows your attitude, intent, or desires? Then you are a fool! He *“is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*



Rebuke me Lord when I have erred,
Let not my life be sin impaired,
With searching gaze reveal my heart,
That I may ne'er from Thee depart! ~CGP

Words that do not reflect the heart are just plain lies! *“For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities.”* It is better to be silent before God than cover sin with much speaking. He already knows your thoughts! Actions betray the façade of piety. *“As he thinketh in his heart, so is he. To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are...whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”* Your master is what you obey. If desire is your master, what is your desire?

“Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou me from secret faults. Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” Psalms 19:12-14 KJV