

Confession & Repentance

Volume 2 Issue 10

Prayer Pointers ~ Scripturally based topical prayers

This issue is especially designed for personal reflection and heart preparation both for our individual relationship with God and for intercession.

As intercessors we are not too often called upon to join our petitioners in times of confession, yet this is an important element in prayer and in our relationship with the Lord. In fact, our intercessory work may be hampered if we ourselves have not spent time in examining our hearts and confessing those things the Lord convicts us of as we ask Him to search us.

Additionally, for us to be good intercessors we must identify with those for whom we intercede. Jesus, our great Intercessor before the throne, identified with us in our humanness. And by taking on all of our sins on the cross, He also identified with us in our sin, even though He had no sin of His own. We, however, do have sin, so by admitting and confessing our sin, it puts us in the place of humbly receiving His mercy and identifying with the sinfulness of those for whom we intercede. So confession has both a

horizontal and vertical importance to it as we pray for others.

There are three great examples of scriptural intercession which have extensive sections of confession. These are found in Daniel 9, Ezra 9, and Nehemiah 9, and I encourage you to take a look at these prayers. Notice how these righteous men take on (identify) with the sins of their fathers and their people, even if they have not personally participated in these sins. Note how they say “we” and not “they” as they confess to God. This is a powerful example of the importance of identification and humility in our intercession.

Additionally, as we read scripture with an open heart, the Lord will apply His truths to us in ways which will be convicting and call forth our confession, so the Holy Spirit can use virtually any scripture to bring our hearts into line with God’s will for us. This edition will provide some scriptures to open our hearts to His work, but if we go to the Bible with our souls

laid bare, the Lord will do His work through His Word and His Spirit.

A Prayer of Preparation:

“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down, you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord...

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting...

“You know my folly, O God, my guilt is not hidden from you...

“Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth...

‘Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness the Lord will be my

light. Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord's wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness...

"Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." Ps. 139:1-4, 23-24; 69:5; 26:2-3; Micah 7:8-9; Ps. 19:12-14

Examination by the Word

If we have been careless with our words, and have not used our words to build up others, please forgive us. May we not grieve the Holy Spirit of God through our attitudes or words of arguing, slander or criticism. Show us when we fail to be kind and compassionate with others, or when we have not been forgiving to others as You have been forgiving to us. Eph. 4:29-5:2

Show us where we have "tested" You, or have been rebellious and not obeyed what You have shown us You have wanted us to do. Convict

us of those times when we are faithless and unreliable. Ps. 78:56-57

Forgive us of those times we have not sought Your counsel, we have not sought Your face, or we have not sought Your power in our plans and deeds. Forgive us for leaning on our own understanding or looking only to other people instead of looking to You. Ps. 106: 13; Prov. 3:5

Forgive us when You have called us to repent and to rest in Your cleansing and in Your sovereignty in our lives, but we have insisted in our own ways and trusted in our own strength. We have fled Your authority and we have feared Your will for us, and so You have allowed those fears to overtake us. Yet Your word says that in spite of all of that You *long* to be gracious to us. You *rise* to show us compassion. How loving and good and merciful You are to us, even in our fear and folly, in our rebellion and willfulness. Isa. 30:15-18

Lord, sometimes our hearts are so hard! We can be so stubborn in our refusal to hear what You are saying to us. We can turn our hearts to flint and make You angry with us. Forgive us. Take away our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh which are

pliable in Your hands, yielded fully to Your will. Zech. 7:11-12; Ezek. 11:19

Our idols are not made of stone or wood, they are made of those things and people we look to from which we seek our satisfaction, security, significance, solace, and serenity apart from You. You have said that You will set Your face against those who have set up idols in their hearts and turned their hearts and faces away from You. You desire and deserve to have first place in our lives in every regard. You long to have nothing in the way of our communion with You and so abhor those things which separate us from You, even the "good" things we allow to come between us. Show us what these idols are in our lives, convict us of how they draw our hearts from You, restore Yourself to Your rightful place in our hearts. Ezek. 14:3, 7-8

"There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers". Show us if these things are in our lives so we can repent and find forgiveness. Prov. 6:16-19