

MAKING THINGS RIGHT WITH GOD

"He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion." Proverbs 28:13.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts." Psalm 139:23.

There's nothing more refreshing than a clean feeling. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- Don't merely feel guilty. God cleanses.
- Just confess as you are convicted.
- Don't make excuses. Ask God to search out your heart and motives.

1. **"Your heavenly Father will forgive you if you forgive those who sin against you." Matthew 6:14.** Is there anyone you haven't forgiven? Anyone you hate? Is there any person against whom you hold bitterness, resentment or jealousy? Anyone you dislike to hear praised or well spoken of? Do you allow anything to justify a wrong attitude toward another? How about brother, sister, mother or father, classmate, roommate, or employer?

2. **"Your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well what you need, and He will give it to you if you give Him first place in your life and live as He wants you to." Matthew 6:33.** Have your decisions been made by what you want, rather than by asking God what He wants? Do any of the following in any way keep you from your commitment to God: ambition, marriage, pleasure, friendships, desire for recognition, your own plans?

3. **"And then He told them, 'You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.'" Mark 16:15.** Have you failed to share Jesus with others? Has your life failed to show your love for the Lord Jesus?

4. **"Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35.** Is there someone you ignore, or fail to show love to? Do you ignore those who are "uncool" or bothersome?

5. **"Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and He lives within you? Your own body does not belong to you. For God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God, because He owns it." I Corinthians 6:19-20.** Are you careless with your body? Do you fail to keep it clean? Do you overeat? Do you have habits which are bad for your body? Do you get too little sleep, due to lack of self-discipline?

6. **"Stop being mean, bad-tempered and angry. Quarreling, harsh words, and dislike to others should have no place in your lives." Ephesians 4:13.** Do you complain? Do you cut others with your words? Do you have

a cutting attitude towards any person or thing? Do you get angry? Do you become impatient with others? Are you ever unkind? Is sarcasm used as a way to put others down?

7. **"Always give thanks for everything to our God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20.** Do you fail to thank Him for all things - the bad as well as the good? Do you thank God for His desire to teach you patience through less than ideal health, classes, weather, finances?

8. **"For to me, living means opportunities for Christ, and dying - well, that's better yet!" Philippians 1:21.** Are there some things that means more to you than living for and pleasing Christ? (Sports, popularity, girl or boyfriend?)

9. **"Don't tell lies to each other; it was your old life with all its wickedness that did that sort of thing; now it is dead and gone." Colossians 3:9.** Do you ever lie? Do you ever exaggerate or stretch the truth? Cheat? Steal?

10. **"Run from anything that gives you the evil thoughts that young men often have, but stay close to anything that makes you want to do right. Have faith and love, and enjoy the companionship of those who love the Lord and have pure hearts." II Timothy 2:22.** Do you have any personal habits that are wrong? Do you allow wrong thought about the opposite sex to stay in your mind? Do you read dirty books or magazines? Do you watch TV or movies that are sexually stirring? Are your best friends Christians who love God?

11. **"Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of His coming back again is drawing near." Hebrews 10:25.** Do you skip church? Do you miss church meetings for other things?

12. **"Obey your spiritual leaders and be willing to do what they say. For their work is to watch over your souls, and God will judge them on how well they do this. Give them reason to report joyfully about you to the Lord and not with sorrow, for then you will suffer for it too." Hebrews 12:17.** Do you hesitate to obey teachers? Are you lazy? Do you in any way have a stubborn or unteachable spirit? Do you refuse to openly learn from pastors, employers, authorities?

13. **"But He gives us more and more strength to stand against all such evil longings. As the Scripture says, God gives strength to the humble, but sets Himself against the proud and haughty." James 4:6.** Do you feel that you are doing quite well as a Christian? That you are not so bad? Do you insist on having your own way?

IF YOU HAVE BEEN HONEST AND TRUE IN THE MATTER OF ADMITTING YOUR SINS, THEN YOU ARE READY FOR GOD'S CLEANSING. SINS THAT ARE

ADMITTED ARE SINS THAT ARE CONFESSED.

Remember these three things:

- 1. If the sin is against God, confess it to God and make things right with God.
- 2. If the sin is against another person, confess it to God and make things right with the other person.
- 3. If the sin is against a group, confess it to God and make it right with the group.

**If there is full confession, there will be full cleansing.
Then the joy of the Lord will follow.**