

## I John 1:9

**9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Confessing our sins; sounds dangerous wouldn't you agree? Yet that is exactly what the Apostle John is exhorting you and me to do. Throughout the Bible there are promises that have contingencies or conditions that preclude them. We all earnestly want the promise of having our sins forgiven and to be cleansed from all unrighteousness; but how many are willing to obey, with the conditions? You might ask, "Just how important is confessing our sins anyway?" The first step to entering the throne room of heaven is to humble oneself. **I Peter 5:5** says, **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.** None of us want to be opposed by the Living God; instead we desire intimacy and relationship. Grace is what God gives us that we don't deserve. Isn't that exactly what forgiving our sins is, grace? Each of us deserves eternal separation or damnation for the sin in our lives. Yet our Heavenly Father has made a propitiation for our sins, through the shed blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is often interesting to see how people want justice when they have been wronged; but if God was to give us justice, then none would enter the Kingdom of Heaven. What we really want is favor, God's Favor! Favor is not equal or fair, but it is given by our Heavenly Father to those who love and obey Him. So how do we attain such favor, by having a relationship with our Lord? In order to develop a relationship, we must first remove the very obstacle that stands between us and our God, sin!! How are we instructed to deal with sin, by confessing it and then repenting or turning away from it? Aren't you ever amazed by the simplicity of God's Word? Even so, most people can't bring themselves to this step, confession of sin.

I believe that most people who are honest with themselves, would agree that they are sinners. I know of no one who deep down desires the fruit of sin, which is death. So why is it so difficult to make that first step? I have witnessed people who were dying of nicotine, taking the oxygen mask in one hand and a cigarette in the other. Even though they knew it was killing them, they still ultimately wanted their own way; even to the point of death. Sin is no different. People are deceived that they can have their sin and their salvation; but that isn't true. Unless the full measure of sin has been paid in your life, you will not enter heaven.

I would encourage you to use wisdom and discretion when you are confessing sin in your life to another person. It is unfortunate that other believers would ever dishonor one another through gossip, yet it does happen everyday. Even pastors have been guilty of this. So first ask the Holy Spirit to show you whom you can trust, then go to that man or woman and ask them if you can confess your sins to them. Their very response will often be an excellent gauge of whether they are honorable or not. Once you have confessed your sins, ask Jesus to forgive you and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. Nothing is more wonderful than having Jesus set you free, and being free is what Jesus is all about. I pray that God will give you the courage and strength to confess your sins today!!