

A Believer's Most Powerful Weapon

AND HOW TO USE IT

Finding Refreshment Through Confession

Repentance opens the door for times of refreshment to come from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19). What does this refreshment look like?

- **Confession opens the door to bring greater joy to God's heart.**
 - We don't want to grieve the Spirit of God and bring grief, sorrow, or pain to Him (Ephesians 4:30). We "walk as children of light proving what is pleasing to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8).
- **Confession opens the full flow of the Holy Spirit.**
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:19 warns us not to quench the Spirit. In John 7, "Jesus said, "He who believes in Me as the Scripture said, from His innermost being will flow living water." We desire to live a John 7 life through His Spirit, not stop the life-giving flow. Confession opens the spout.
- **Confession gives God an opportunity to remind us again of what He has done for us through the cross.**
 - Micah 7:18-19 "Who is God like you, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever because He delights in unchanging love. " He will **tread our iniquities** under foot. Yes, He will cast our sins into the depth of the sea!
- **Through confession, we practically experience God's cleansing blood. It feels good to be clean.**
 - Psalm 51:2 "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."
- **Confession brings comfort because it is a comfort to have our sins covered.**
 - Isaiah said, "Come now and let us reason together, though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool" (Isaiah 1:18). Just as snow covers the scars of the earth, so Jesus' blood covers the scars of sin. One of my favorite

memories as a teacher was leading a student to Christ on a day when snow was falling briskly over the parched ground.

- **Confession gives us the opportunity to make God our stronghold, our fortress once again; to consecrate ourselves again so that God can do wonders among us as He did in Joshua's day (Joshua 3:5).**
 - Other strongholds offer no safety, no protection, and no provision BEEPS-
(from *Jim Wilder, Chris Coursey*)
 - **Behaviors** – running like Elijah, fighting like Peter, appeasing like Eli
 - **Experiences** – shopping, collecting, sports
 - **Events**
 - **People** – putting people in the place of God,
 - **Substances** – that we run to instead of running to God

- **Sometimes confession involves a thorough house cleaning—a spring cleaning, fall cleaning, or holiday cleaning.** God wants to cleanse not only external behavior but thoughts and intentions of the heart. And when lead by the Spirit of God, we have the right tool for this thorough cleansing – *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*.