

## **The Prayer of Cleansing**

**Series: Connecting with God: The Lord's Prayer**

June 7, 2009 Pastor Bill Bump

The Bible tells us that what holds us back more than anything else is guilt from unconfessed.

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) ...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles us, and run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Proverb 28:13 (GN) You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you.

Matthew 6:12 (NIV) "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Matthew 6:12 (NLT) "Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us."

Matthew 6:12 (GN) "Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us."

### **PATH TO A FRESH START AND A CLEAR CONSCIENCE**

#### **1. REVIEW EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE**

Lamentations 3:40a (NLT) ...let us test and examine our ways...

Psalms 139:23,24 (NLT) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Denial and God's blessing don't go hand in hand.

#### **2. REPENT OF EVERY SIN**

What does it mean to repent?

A. I take responsibility for my sin.

B. I turn away from that sin.

C. I turn toward God and his grace.

Lamentations 3:40b-42a (NLT) ...Let us turn again in repentance to the Lord. Let us lift our hearts and hands to God in heaven and say, "We have sinned and rebelled..."

I John 1:10 (NLT) If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

### 3. RESOLVE TO MAKE RESTITUTION

Luke 19:8,9 (NIV) "...if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to your house..."

### 4. RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.

I John 1:9 (NLT) But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.

Confession is to speak the same word as God.

Romans 5:1 (NIV) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### 5. REPEAT THESE STEPS REGULARLY

The only thing God will not use is a dirty vessel.

Hebrews 10:22-25 (NIV) Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience...Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are doing, but let us encourage one another...