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CONFESSION-NAMING OUR FAULTS

“v6 Tell the people of Isra’el, ‘When a man or woman commits any kind of sin against another person and thus breaks faith with Adonai, he incurs guilt. v7a He must confess the sin which he has committed;” Num 5:6-7a CJB

Confession is probably the most neglected area in personal prayer. We often hear people pray publicly, “Lord, forgive us for our many sins.” A lot of us carry that approach into our private prayer life. We throw all our sins onto a pile without so much as looking at them, and we say God please cover the whole dirty heap.

This approach to confession unfortunately is an enormous excuse. When I lump all my sins together and confess them en masse, it’s not painful or embarrassing, in actuality it doesn’t really reflect heartfelt remorse. It becomes more superstitious than repentive. Let me give you a true example of what I mean by this statement. I was told by a person who claims to be a believer that they pray a silent breath prayer every morning and ask God to forgive them for their sins, and now they are good for another day just in case something should happen (they die). The reality is they continue to live their life as they did the day before without any biblical character present. In other words there is no forsaking of the sinful behavior, they do not have Christian fellowship, attend church, or live a demonstrated life of obedience to the Word of God. They just want to be sure they are safe just in case!

Let me site another example of this kind of prayer. A man walks through the door thinking I had a hard day, and I deserve to have things my way and I need to be served. He then proceeds to act it out and demands it from his wife and children! Later he comes to his senses and wants to make it right. Instead of praying a general non specific prayer and admitting that he had been less than then a good husband who just had a difficult day. He prays like this..., Father today I willfully repent of being self centered, uncaring, insensitive and unloving to my wife and family.

I believe to experience the benefits of forgiveness the sinner needs to be specific about the sin and the receiver’s need to hear their confession and request in order to release this injury. In this way both parties deal with the sin specifically. Instead of a wholesale prayer that avoids restitution, he acknowledges the sinful behavior and this allows the healing grace to come to all parties, especially those who were injured.

It Takes Courage To Be That Honest, But Honest Prayers Can Help Us Really Grow.

Why, because when we read the full context of these verses “v7 part b says “and he must make full restitution for his guilt, add twenty percent and give it to the victim of his sin.” Num 5:7b

CJB

MAKING RESTITUTION IS THE MISSING FACTOR IN RESTORATION!

If all of us truly practiced the principle of “full restitution” it might redefine behavior. To admit to someone what we have done is humbling and at times embarrassing, especially if we have defamed or slandered someone. “Full Restitution” means that we admit our faults specifically one to another and become healed. I want to recommended that you be specific about your sinful behavior to the Lord and if you have wounded someone else that you make “full restitution” by being honest and truthful confessing your faults and asking them to forgive you specifically so that you can be healed of the indiscretions that break faith with His WORD and HIM! If someone comes to you and confesses their faults, receive it and forgive them without blabbing about it! Matthew 18:21-22

IT TAKES COURAGE TO BE HONEST AND TO HUMBLE OURSELVES, BUT HONEST PRAYERS LEAD TO GROWTH

APPLICATION: “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” James 4:7-10

“Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].” James 5:16 AMP

BIBLICAL HUMILITY OPENS THE DOOR TO FULL RESTITUTION

Blessings Pastor Bob Hill