

## SIN BRINGS BARRENNESS OF THE SOUL!

*If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.* (Romans 12:18)

God clearly tells us in the Holy Bible that when we sin, we are to confess that sin in order to be forgiven, cleansed and able to freely move on. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (I John 1:9)

When you have committed a wrong against your brother, you not only sin against them, but against yourself and against God. Your *human nature* will want to excuse, to rationalize, to keep you thinking that it is beside the point and you'll push the sin aside—DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN! When you know that you have committed a sin (a wrong) and you do nothing about it, you condemn yourself to live without respect for self; which will eventually fester and set up an irritation within you. You are not a *happy camper*; rather, you become ill at ease, nervous, guilt ridden, and spend needless time wondering why. You may not like the answer, but here it is; it is the result of this unconfessed sin; the result of this repression. The sin must be found, exposed to the light and truth of God's Word, and resolved through confession. Try as you may to avoid it, confession is the only way out.

### **There are three steps to confession of sin(s).**

**First:** You must be willing to confess and acknowledge it to yourself; to declare it for the sin (wrong) it is. If you don't, you will try to compromise with half-confessions, half-repentances. Sin must be dealt with God's way; Once you have done that, then you are able to confess it to man. This confession is never easy as it means humiliation to our inner most self. It means opening the door to hidden sin that you have tried very hard to bury and keep in the dark. It means sin being exposed for what it is and then dealt with in the proper way/

**Second:** You must confess your sin to God. Sin not confessed breaks the heart of God. He is waiting for you to come to him so that He can forgive and cleanse you. The truth of the matter is that you have no excuse to not confess your sin(s) to God; the approach to your heavenly Father has been made easy through Jesus. He gave you access to the throne room and bids you enter. Dare to expose your heart to the heart of your loving, Father. He sees the wholeheartedness of your confession; the confession that holds nothing back, but confesses all—AND— He forgives! Your confession will always bring relief. It will set you free. It will take the darkness from heart and soul, therefore, allowing you to walk upon the paths designed by God; paths that will bring you wonderful new and exciting experiences in daily living.

**Third:** Now you are ready for step number three—confess the sin to those whom you have wronged. It is not necessary to shout them out to the whole world; that isn't even healthy, but there are some things that

I believe God deals with in His private chambers; just the two of you. It is that private moment between child and God; it is for His ears only. But when we have wronged others or others have wronged us, we must both ask forgiveness and offer it. This requires all three steps to be completed.

If you want to become well—WHOLE-- you must allow the sin to be taken out by the roots. This often requires the knife (of truth and light) to go deeper, which often produces great pain and suffering, but it is the only way to make sure that all the roots are dug out; that no roots linger behind. It may hurt at the moment of digging, but the end result—God's total healing—is well worth the short lived pain. Wince in the process, cry out if you must, moan and groan B U T consent to it and trust Jesus through the process!

Untangling our lives is never easy. Yet, lies and sins not confessed will wrap around us until we find ourselves in a tangled web that feels impossible to escape from; God is our only answer. If you want restoration in your life, you must not allow sin to stay hidden; it must be brought out into God's light, confessed and dealt with God's way.

Satan uses many ploys to lure us into sin; we become trapped and often aren't even aware of the bondage until it is too late. A believer must be watchful at all times, and keep a right relationship with the Lord for the Holy Spirit will alert us to the snares of the enemy and warn us of impending danger. Angels are also dispatched from God at various times to help a believer in time of danger. A perfect example is a story I read by writer, E Stanley Jones. He wrote about a Christian minister who had been dishonest early in his ministry, hid his sin and didn't deal with it. Eventually it caught up with him and we are told that one day the Christian minister laid down four hundred and fifty rupees on the table—the weight that had laid upon his soul for twenty years and the cause of his barrenness. Hard—but an open door. Don't harbor sin.

Matthew 5: 23, 24 show us what we must do. *Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.* Resentment is a big one for many people who have not confessed the wrong and dealt with it God's way; it will usually bring unpleasant consequences!

Then read Matthew 18:15 – *Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.* It can't be stated any clearer. Both scriptures make it clear what a Christian is to do—whether sinned against or sinning, the Christian is under obligations to take the initiative to get the matter resolved the right way. Jesus is our perfect example as he hung upon the cross for the sins of mankind and yet prayed—*Father, forgive them.* Can you do any less? Oh Father, help me to forgive those who have wronged me and help me to walk through the three steps of confession whenever I have wronged another.

As a counselor, I heard this statement over and over—“*I can't forgive. I just can't!*” My response—then you can never, never be forgiven, for the Word of God says *But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.* (Matthew 6:15) and Mark comes along and confirms it with this scripture—*And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.*

Then in Matthew 6:9-13 we have the Lord's Prayer that says in verse 12—*And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.* Don't break down the bridge which you yourself must some day pass over by refusing forgiveness to others. Sow the good seeds and reap God's harvest that others might come into the saving grace of a loving and forgiving God.

Bad-tempered, touchy and quarrelsome religious people do as much harm to the Kingdom of God as drunkards, or adulterers, murderers or the likes. Driven by the wrong spirit and holding onto anger, resentment, and unforgiveness can give the enemy the upper hand and bring you down. Be willing to forgive and receive forgiveness. Be willing to search your heart and allow God to bring unresolved sins to His light. Give Him permission to dig out all roots of sin; endure the short time of pain, then receive the relief and healing that will come. It is your choice!

**PART TWO** will deal with *I'll forgive, but I cannot forget!*