

## Confession

Confession is a vital part of our communication with God. To be able to hear His voice, to be Spirit-filled, and to have intimacy with Him in prayer, we cannot have sin blocking the way. Sin grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit. “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,” Ephesians 4:30(a). “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire,” 1 Thess 5:19. It is like the channel between God and His child becomes blocked or clogged. Therefore, it is very important to spend some time in prayer before God asking Him to reveal any unconfessed sin in your life. “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy,” Proverbs 28:13.

There are some sins that He doesn’t need to remind us of. We know very clearly sometimes that we have messed up! So, the first thing we need to do is confess those sins we are aware of and ask for His forgiveness. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9. It is also important to spend some time before the Lord asking Him to search your heart and reveal any sin in your life that you are not aware of or that you have forgotten, been ignoring, or blocked. “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24.

As you confess your sins when He brings them to mind, as you repent and ask forgiveness, the Bible tells us of two beautiful promises. “You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.” Micah 7:19 “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:12. And, yes, He even means THAT sin (whatever sin popped into your head!). There is no sin so great that His blood cannot cover it. You then become a cleansed vessel. He can flow His glory through you to impact the world and you can flow big, kingdom-shaping prayers to the Throne. Your confession has now prepared you to step into the next prayer types, petition and intercession.

But first, there is a wonderful story that fits in with this topic of confession and it is found in Isaiah 6:1-8. In this passage, the prophet Isaiah is seeing a vision of God on His throne and of the heavenly angels. At the sight of heaven and God and at the sound of the angels praising God, Isaiah cried out, “Woe to me. I am ruined. For I am a man of unclean lips living among people of unclean lips and I have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” One of the angels flew to him and touched his mouth with live coal from the altar telling him, “This has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” In the next passage Isaiah says, “**Then I heard the voice of the Lord** saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ Isaiah replied, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

What I want to point out to you is this -- notice when Isaiah was able to HEAR the Lord’s voice. It was after he recognized he was unclean and he confessed his sin. It was after his sin was taken away. **THEN I heard the voice of the Lord...**

Isaiah was well aware of the existence of Heaven and that God is a living God. He had a glimpse of heaven and could even hear the angels. It is even possible that the Lord had been talking, but the “hearing” of what the Lord was saying didn’t begin until Isaiah’s confession and subsequent removal of his sin. I don’t know about you, but I want to be a child of God who hears His voice. Believe me, He has things to say. May we not miss one precious word.

Copyright 2006 [Arford Ministry](#) - Janae Arford [janea@arfordministry.com](mailto:janea@arfordministry.com)

