

THE PRAYER CLOSET

*Transforming Lives Through Intercessory
Prayer And Fasting*

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THE CONFESSION OF SIN

The confession of sin is the most neglected area in the prayer lives of believers. This neglect comes in many forms. Some believers ignore the need to confess their sins. Others do not take the time to examine their lives and honestly deal with the sin in their lives. And, many believers use the well-worn, but empty and meaningless cliché, "Forgive me of my many sins."

Confessing sin should be an integral part of your prayer life. It is crucial to a healthy, mature prayer life. It also affects the intimacy of your relationship with God. It is essential to being useful in serving God. In this article, we will explore the basics of confessing sin.

What Is The Confession of Sin?

In order to practice the confession of sin, you need a basic understanding of what it means to "confess" your sins. The word "confess" means "to agree with or to say the same thing as." Confessing your sin means that you are saying the same thing as God does about your sin. It means to

acknowledge that what you have thought, said, or done is truly sinful before God. You agree with God that you have sinned against Him and that your sin is an offense against Him (**Jeremiah 3:13; Psalm 51:3-4**). Confessing sin means that you acknowledge to God that your thought, word, or action is sin and that it is an offense against Him. It is to come to God and openly admit to Him that you have sinned against Him (**Psalm 32:5**). Confessing sin is an acknowledgment to God that one has sinned. It is not coming to God to argue with Him about the rightness or wrongness of your thought, word, or action. It is not coming to God in order to justify what you have thought, said, or done. It is the honest and open acknowledgment that you have sinned against God. It is the admission that you have willfully rebelled against God and His Word.

However confessing your sin is more than an acknowledgment of your sin before God. It is also assuming God's attitude about the sin. It means feeling the way that God feels about your sin. It is developing a healthy hatred of the sin and seeing it as an abominable offense to a holy God. You have to reject the sin because it is an offense and an abomination to God, no matter how small or great you think it is. Confessing sin means that you assume God's feeling toward the sin.

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When you acknowledge your sin to God and assume His attitude about it, this leads you to repentance. Repentance is more than feeling sorry for your sin or the consequences of your sin. It is a sorrow that results from realizing that you have sinned against your God. This sorrow drives you to deal with the sin. Repentance requires a radical change. It involves the deliberate commitment to root out that particular sin from your life. It is taking the necessary steps to deal with the sin that you commit. Because God hates the sin, it grieves you that you have committed it against Him. By acknowledging your sin to God and assuming His attitude about the sin, it motivates you to remove that sin from your life. Repentance results from the true acknowledgment of your sin and assuming God's attitude about it.

In summary, the confession of sin consists of three distinct parts: acknowledgment, assumption, and repentance. All three elements appear when there is the heartfelt confession of sin (**Psalm 51**). Confession of sin is not merely mouthing the words, "I have sinned." An individual can say these words and not be sincere and not receive God's forgiveness and restoration (**Exodus 9:27; Matthew 27:4**). Confession of sin demands an acknowledgment, an honest admission of guilt before God for particular sins. It calls for an assuming of God's attitude toward the sin. It then leads to the commitment to deal with the sin. If you acknowledge the sin to God and assume His attitude toward it, you will then be moved to root that sin out of your life.

Why Should A Believer Confess His Sin?

The Bible reveals many reasons why you should confess your sins. *The first and most basic reason is that this is God's demand of you.* This is revealed in **1 John 1:9**. This letter is written to Christians. It reveals what God's desire for His people is. God wants His people to confess their sins to Him. He has promised to be faithful to

forgive and cleanse the believer who confesses his sin.

Second, sin robs the believer of intimacy and fellowship with God. God is holy (**Isaiah 6:3-5, 57:15**). He hates sin. He is absolutely opposed to sin. When a believer cherishes or refuses to deal with sin in his life, it creates a barrier to experiencing intimacy and fellowship with God. God cannot and will not enter into deep and intimate fellowship with a believer who tolerates and cherishes sin. The believer will experience God's displeasure and chastisement for this (**Isaiah 59:2; Hebrews 12:7-11**).

Next, it is a disgrace to Jesus Christ for a believer to cherish and tolerate sin in his life. Jesus Christ died on the cross to make believers holy (**2 Corinthians 5:21; Titus 2:14**). He suffered, bled, and died on the cross to turn sinners into redeemed, holy believers. He died and was raised again not only to save sinners, but to make them holy. He died to save believers "from" their sin, not "in" their sin (**Matthew 1:21**). How can a believer disgrace Christ and His work on the cross by cherishing and tolerating sin? How could a believer cherish and tolerate what brought such suffering and agony to Jesus Christ

*Third, unconfessed sin grieves the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 4:30**).* The Spirit who lives inside of the believer is the "Holy" Spirit. He hates sin and is utterly opposed to it. When a believer tolerates and cherishes unconfessed sin in his life, this grieves the Holy Spirit. He will not bless and work in the believer's life in this situation. The believer is robbed of the vital and necessary power of the Holy Spirit. The believer is left weak and lacks power for service.

*Unconfessed sin provides the devil an opportunity to work in your life (**Ephesians 4:27**).* Unconfessed sin gives the devil a foothold in your life. When an enemy attacks a nation, it wants to get a foothold from which to operate. By gaining a foothold somewhere in the land, the enemy has a place to work from within the nation. The enemy can then strike deeper into the nation and can gain more ground. The same is true in the spiritual

realm. Unconfessed sin gives the devil a foothold in your life. It gives him a place from which he and his demons can operate. He can strike deeper into your life through this foothold. It gives him the opportunity to do greater damage in your life and to attack others through you and your sin.

When you confess your sin, it enables you to be forgiving toward others (Matthew 18:21-35). When you confess your sins to God, you receive His forgiveness. You experience His mercy and grace. This makes you willing to forgive others. How can you withhold forgiveness from others when God has so freely forgiven you (**Ephesians 4:32**)? Confessing your sin makes your heart tender and willing to forgive others. Added to this, when you truly confess your sin to God, it shows you how greatly you have rebelled against Him and offended Him. This makes the offenses done against you by others seem insignificant when compared to what you have done before God. When your eyes have been opened to the enormity of your offenses against God, the injuries that others have done to you will seem small. **True confession of sin is an excellent barrier against a spirit of unforgiveness.**

Confession of sin is a way that you glorify God's perfection. By confessing your sin, you are declaring that you are not holy and that you have fallen short of God's standard. You are declaring that God is absolutely holy and righteous. You are stating that His Word is righteous and perfect. Confessing sin is a way that you can praise God. You can glorify His perfection by declaring your sin to Him and the fact that you have fallen short of His holiness and His perfection.

Finally, when you confess sin, you receive a new awareness of the mercy and the grace of God (Lamentations 3:21-24). When you confess your sin, God is faithful to forgive you and to cleanse you. His mercy and grace flows into your life cleansing your conscience and filling your heart with peace. You are enabled to come into His presence with confidence. You can pray freely and without guilt. Confession of sin brings fresh awareness of God's mercy and grace in your life.

The Bible is clear: a believer must confess his sin to God. This is God's desire for you as a believer. This is essential for your growth and usefulness as a Christian. It is a necessity for you enjoying intimate fellowship with God.

How Do I Confess My Sin?

In order to grow and mature in the confession of sin, there are some basic guidelines that you need to keep in mind. *First, you need to confess sins daily.* As soon as the Holy Spirit convicts you, you need to deal with that sin immediately. The Bible states in **Ephesians 4:26** that a believer is not to let the sun go down on his anger. The general principle of this verse is that you are not to let the sun go down on your sin. You should not develop a complacent attitude about dealing with sin. Sin is something that must be dealt with on a daily basis. At the end of the day, you should ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any unconfessed sin that you are clinging to or that you are refusing to deal with. As He reveals this, confess it to God and commit to deal with this sin. You need to develop a daily diligence in dealing with sin.

Next, you need to confess your sins specifically. You need to declare your specific sins to God. Many believers simply say, "Lord, forgive me of my many sins" or at least, one of the various versions of this infamous phrase. However, this is simply an attempt to throw all your sins onto a pile without so much as looking at them and say, "God, please cover the whole dirty heap."

Unfortunately, this approach to confession is a colossal copout. It is actually an attempt to get out of dealing with one's sin before God. When you lump all your sins together and confess them "en masse", it's not painful or embarrassing. But, if you take those sins out of the pile one by one and call them by name, it's a whole new ballgame.

When you are serious about specifically confessing your sin, it will make a radical change in your life. When you are totally honest and specific about your sins, something happens. About the fourth or fifth day that you have to call yourself an adulterer, a liar, a greedy person, a gossip, a manipulator, or whatever, you will say to yourself, "I'm tired of having to admit this to God. With God's grace and power, I'm going to root this out of my life." When you specifically confess your sin to God, it moves you to deal with the sin and root it out of your life.

Finally, you need to confess your sins intentionally. You ought to confess your sins with a view to rooting them out of your life. True confession of sins should lead you to attack and root them out of your life. It is useless to acknowledge your sin before God without a commitment to deal with that sin. It is an abomination to acknowledge a sin before God while at the same time, planning to commit that same sin again. You may confess a sin and then commit it again. Yet, the key is confessing it to God and renewing your commitment to root it out of your life. It is renewing your commitment to war against that sin. The confession of sins without a commitment to utterly destroy these things out of your life is empty and meaningless.

How Do I Accept God's Forgiveness?

Many believers struggle to accept God's forgiveness. Perhaps you are one of those believers. You confess your sin by acknowledging it to God as sin and you assume His attitude toward it. You work to root the sin out of your life. Yet, you still feel guilty. You still wonder if God has truly forgiven you of the sin that you have committed. The good news is that you do not have to carry that guilt around and you can rest in God's cleansing and restoration. There are steps that you can take to deal with this problem.

First, keep believing the promises of God. You must trust what God says. God has promised cleansing, forgiveness, and restoration to those who will confess their sins to Him. Read, study, meditate on, and believe passages such as **Micah 7:18-19, Isaiah 38:17, 1 John 1:9** and **Psalm 103:12**. Ask God to increase your faith concerning His forgiveness as you read and study these verses. You must take God at His Word. You must believe that what He has declared is true in your life since you confessed your sins to Him.

Next, you need to focus more on the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ than your sin. Which is more powerful--your sin or the blood of Jesus Christ? The blood of Jesus Christ can wash away and cleanse you of any sin (**1 Peter 1:18-19**). When guilt begins to weigh you down, you must look to Jesus Christ and the cleansing power of His blood. This is your only hope and the only way to victory over guilt. Christ's death on the cross sufficiently paid the debt of your sin. When you confess your sin to God, trust that the work of Christ and His blood have completely dealt with your sin. Claim the cleansing power of His blood!

You may also need to ask God for grace to deal with the consequences of your sin. Many times the guilt that a believer feels over sin is connected to the consequences of his sin. God does forgive sin, cleanse the believer, and restore him to intimate fellowship and usefulness. However, God does allow a believer to suffer the consequences of his sin (**compare Psalm 51 with 2 Samuel 12:7-14**). The consequences are a constant reminder of the sin. This constant reminder can trigger guilt in the believer's life. If this is the case in your life, call on God to give you the grace and the power that you need to deal with the consequences your sin. Also, plead with Him to give you the assurance that you have been cleansed of the sin and restored to fellowship even though you are still suffering the consequences.

Finally, you need to ask God to give you discernment concerning the guilt. It could be that you have not completely dealt with the sin. Or it could be an attack of Satan in your life. Satan

wants you to feel guilty, condemned, and hopeless. Ask God to give you the discernment to know the difference between the accusing voice of Satan (**Revelation 12:10**) and the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit (**John 16:7-10**). The Holy Spirit convicts, but Satan condemns. The Holy Spirit shows you your sin, how it is an offense to God and abominable in His sight. Yet, He also points you to Christ, confession, and repentance. Satan shows you your sin and points to the fact that there is no hope of forgiveness, cleansing, or restoration. Ask God to help you know the difference in your life.

I want to challenge you to make a commitment to be diligent in confessing and dealing with your sin. It is crucial for experiencing intimate fellowship with God. It is necessary for your growth and usefulness as a Christian. It is key to having power in prayer. Will you make this commitment now? The following is a prayer of commitment for this. Please pray this from the heart or you can write your own. Make the commitment to be diligent in confessing and dealing with your sin.

"Holy and righteous God, Merciful Father, You are the Perfect God. You are holy and pure. There is not taint of imperfection in you. You hate sin and are utterly opposed to it. Create in me a holy hatred of sin. Cause me to feel the way about sin as You do. Grant me the power to be diligent in confessing and dealing with my sin. I want to be holy! O God, make me holy! Amen.

Pursuing Holiness

Striving to live a holy life should be the pursuit of every Christian. In fact, it is what characterizes those who have been born-again (**Hebrews 12:14; 1 John 3:9**). The Bible teaches that a Christian longs to be holy and pursues this with determined effort.

Pursuing holiness is intimately connected to the confession of sin. Confession is the fountain while pursuing holiness is the stream. Confession

of sin leads to the pursuit of holiness. When you confess your sin, you are identifying the problem. When you pursue holiness, you are striving to eliminate the problem.

Pursuing holiness means that a believer is striving to remove what is sinful from his life. It is removing from one's thinking, feeling, and acting what is not pleasing in the sight of God. Yet, it does not stop with this. It is also replacing the characteristics and attitudes that God wants you to have. You root out the sin in order to replace it with godly characteristics, attitudes, and behavior.

How does a dentist deal with a cavity? First, he drills into the tooth removing the disease and the decay. He has to remove this for the tooth to recover and become healthy again. Yet, he does not stop there. It is not enough to remove the disease and the decay. He has to place medicine and a filling in the tooth where the disease and the decay were. This deals with the decay and strengthens the tooth. It also protects it from future disease and decay.

It is the same in the spiritual realm. You must strive to remove sinful attitudes, words, and actions from your life. These things must be attacked and attacked until you destroy them out of your life. Yet, this is not enough. You must be seeking to cultivate godly characteristics and actions in your life. You must root out the sin and replace it with the godly characteristics that God wants you to have in your life.

Your pursuit of holiness must be intentional. You must strive with all your might to deal with the sin in your life and to cultivate godly character. This is something that you have to be committed to on a daily basis. It will take a determined effort on your part. God has purposed to make you holy (**Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:4**). God will work in your life to accomplish His purpose of making you holy (**Philippians 2:13**). Yet, you must strive with all your might to grow in holiness. You must make every effort to pursue holiness (**Hebrews 12:14**).

Farming provides an excellent illustration of this principle. God has to provide the sun, the rain, and the increase for the farmer to grow a crop. These are things that the farmer cannot provide. Only God can provide these things. However, the farmer has to till the land, plant the seed, fertilize it, and cultivate it. God will not do these things for the farmer. **The farmer cannot do what God can do, but, God will not do what the farmer ought to do.**

In the same way, only God can provide the grace and power to pursue holiness. This is something that God alone can provide. Yet, God will not do what the believer ought to do. God will not pray for you. He will not read the Bible for you. He will not confess the sin. He will not attack the sin for you. He will not strive to cultivate Christian character in you. This what you ought to do and must do. You cannot provide the power and grace to pursue holiness. But, God will not do what you are to do. You must strive and make every effort to deal with your sin and to cultivate Christian character in your life.

In order to help you do this, I have devised the "Pursuing Holiness Worksheet" (See page 7) This worksheet is designed to help you in rooting out sin and developing godly character. It is offered to you in order to help you and encourage you in the pursuit of holiness. Here is how it works. A place is provided for you to place the date of when you begin the war against this sin. It is important that you make a definite commitment to root this sin out of your life. Record the date as a visible reminder of when you declared war on this sin. Next, **Psalm 139:23-24** is given to help you in calling on the Holy Spirit to enable you to examine your life. The Holy Spirit can reveal to you your sin and give you a hatred of it along with a willingness to deal with it. Plead with Him to give you a hatred for your sin and to give you victory over it. Following this place, you have a place to list the sin that you want to root out of your life. It is important that you target specific sins. You must identify the sin that needs to be rooted out. When you do this, you need to find Scripture that deals with this sin. Use the sword of the Spirit to attack

this sin. Memorize these verses and meditate on them. Recall them and use them when you are tempted to commit this sin again.

The next step is to identify a godly habit or habits that you can replace the sin with in your life. An example is truthfulness. If the sin that you are working to root out of your life is lying, the godly characteristic that you need to cultivate in your life is truthfulness. Find verses of Scripture that deal with truthfulness. Memorize these verses and meditate on these verses. Strive to implement their truths into your life. Call on God to enable you to speak the truth in love in all situations. Devise a strategy of how you can develop the ability to speak the truth in love. By doing this, you are not only dealing with the sin, you are also working to replace it with a godly characteristic.

Along with taking these steps, you need to ask yourself two questions. The first question is, **"What steps do I need to protect myself from the temptation to commit this sin?"** You need to determine when you are the most vulnerable to this temptation. It might be helpful to recall the times that you committed this sin. What were the circumstances? This might give you insight into what situations and people you may need to deal with in order to overcome the sin. The next question is, **"What steps do I need to take to cultivate this godly habit into my life?"** The purpose of this question is to help you think about and devise a strategy for cultivating godly characteristics in your life. Think about the ways you can start cultivating this characteristic in your life. Think about what encouragement's there are to pursuing this godly characteristic. Ask God to produce this characteristic in you.

There may be some who may feel that what I am suggesting is extreme. You may say, "I don't have the time to do this," or "That sounds too hard or too impossible to do." Yet, I cannot stress enough the fact that your pursuit of holiness must be **intentional**. It will not happen until you make the commitment and make every effort to pursue holiness (**Hebrews 12:14**). It must be something

THE PURSUING HOLINESS WORKSHEET

Date _____

Psalm 139:23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

The Sin _____

What verses from the Word of God deal with this sin?

The Godly Habit(s) _____

What verses from the Word of God deal with this godly habit?

What steps do I need to take to protect myself from the temptation to commit this sin?

What steps do I need to take to cultivate this godly habit in my life?

that you determine in your heart to do and then strive for it with all your being. You must make the commitment to do this. You must be willing to take whatever steps are necessary for dealing with the sin in your life and cultivating godly character in its place. At the same time, there is no greater danger in your life than sin. When you become complacent about the sin in your life, you have come to a very dangerous point. If you do not destroy sin, it will destroy you. By God's grace and power, you must seek to root it out of your life and grow in godly character.

Will you make a commitment to renew your pursuit of holiness? Perhaps you are not hungering for holiness. A hunger for holiness is characteristic of every child of God. It is one of the clearest evidences of the new birth in a person's life. Where do you stand with God in this matter? Please pray and ask God to show you your condition. If you are a Christian, confess your hardness of heart and laziness to pursue holiness. Renew your commitment to pursue holiness. If you have not been born-again and are deceived, cry out to the Lord Jesus Christ to save you and change you. Trust in Him as your Savior and surrender to Him as your Lord! Plead with Him to grant you a hunger for holiness and the power to pursue it!

Overcoming Temptation Through Prayer

The Word of God reveals that every Christian is going to face the temptation to sin (**James 1:13-15**). The believer still has the remaining corruption of the old life to contend with on a daily basis. The believer also lives in a sinful environment that continually entices him to sin. Added to these factors is Satan and his demons. Satan and his demons seek to deceive and trap believers into sin. Due to the combination of these factors, the believer will find himself in daily struggle with temptation.

In this daily struggle against temptation, you are not a helpless victim. You are not powerless

against the powerful pull of evil. You can overcome and be victorious over the temptations that come your way. God has given you weapons to wage war against the temptation to sin.

Your primary weapon is prayer. This is illustrated in **Matthew 26**. In this chapter, the Lord Jesus Christ is praying in the garden of Gethsemane. He is preparing for His crucifixion. He wanted his disciples to stay awake and pray with Him. He goes off by Himself to pray only to come back and find his disciples sleeping! He then rebukes them for sleeping and declared that they had to pray (**26:40-41**). This would be the only way that they could overcome the temptation to forsake Him when Judas and the soldiers came for Jesus Christ. They continued to sleep and did not pray. For this reason, they gave into the temptation to forsake Him when Judas and the soldiers came for Jesus.

The same is true for you. If you do not pray and watch in your personal life, you will be weak when the moment of temptation comes. Prayer strengthens you to face the temptations that come your way. The more consistent you are in prayer, the stronger you will be in facing temptation. It is kind of like a "spiritual immunization." When a person is immunized, he receives a shot to help fight and overcome a disease. This shot helps the body build up its defense system against the disease. In the same way, prayer helps you build up your spiritual defenses against temptation. That is why it is so important to have consistent fellowship with God through prayer. It helps you prepare for the temptations that will you have to face.

There are also some specific requests that you can make of God to strengthen you in facing temptation. You can use these requests in a variety of ways. You can pray through these requests when you are tempted to sin. You can divide these requests up and assign a certain number of them for each day of the week. Then you can pray daily for yourself concerning temptation. This will be of tremendous help in pursuing holiness. By doing this, you can strengthen yourself against the temptations that you will have to face. You can also use these suggestions to intercede for those who are

struggling with temptation. It could be used to help you intercede for someone who is severely tempted by a particular sin. An example of this is a believer who is struggling to overcome lust or alcohol.

(1) **Pray on the armor of God on a daily basis (Ephesians 6:10-18).** God has given to the believer the armor to protect and defend himself in the war against sin. This armor will help you defend yourself especially when temptation comes your way. You need to daily pray the armor on. Pray on each piece and receive it by faith. Ask God to enable you to become skilled in using this armor to defend yourself from the temptation to sin;

(2) **Pray for and receive by faith the filling of the Spirit daily (Ephesians 5:18).**

(3) **Pray for the confidence and conviction that God always offers a way of escape from temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13).** God declares in His Word that He always provides a way of escape when temptation comes. He has a way for the believer to escape the temptation. Ask God to give you a confidence and conviction concerning this. Call on Him to remove any doubts that you have about this;

(4) **Ask God to enable you to guard your thought life (Proverbs 4:23; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:2; James 1:13-15).** Sin is conceived in the mind. Sin begins when a believer cherishes or entertains an evil thought. This starts a process that will eventually bring forth a sinful act. When a woman conceives a child in her womb, she is going to give birth to a baby in due time. When you entertain and cherish a sinful thought in your mind, it is going to give birth to a sinful act in your life in due time. This is why it is of the utmost importance to guard what you put into you mind. **IT DOES MATTER WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT AND MEDITATE ON!** You must seek to set your mind on God's Word. You must meditate on the perfections of God's character. You have to learn to reject any thought that is evil and accept and meditate on what is holy and good. Call on God to give you the discipline and strength to do this;

(5) **Pray that God will deliver you from the traps of Satan (Matthew 6:13; John 17:15; 2 Corinthians 2:11).** In 2 Corinthians 2:11, the apostle Paul refers to the schemes or methods of Satan. Satan has traps that he will set before the believer in order to ensnare him. Satan does this so that he can do damage to the believer and his testimony. Pray that God will give you the discernment to know when you are facing a trap of Satan. Cry out to God to honor the prayer of Jesus. Jesus Christ prayed that His people would be delivered from the evil one and his schemes. Call on God to answer the prayer of Jesus;

(6) **Pray that God will give you a burning hatred of sin (Proverbs 6:16-19, 8:13, 11:20).** Plead with God to give you a burning hatred of sin. Call on Him to create within you an attitude of hatred toward anything in your life that is not pleasing in His sight;

(7) **Plead that God will give you a deep longing for holiness (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:14-15).** At the same time that you plead with God for a hatred of sin, you also need to plead with Him to give you a hunger, a thirst, to be holy. Call on God to give you a unceasing desire to root out your sin and to create godly character in your life;

(8) **Ask God to enable you to understand and remember the consequences of sin (James 1:15-16).** Temptation makes sin look appealing and desirable. You never see the end result of sin which is death. You must be deceived on this point: sin destroys. There is nothing good or right about sin. It rips, it tears, it wounds, it destroys. Ask God to help you to have a fresh understanding of this. Plead with God to enable you to remember this, especially when you are tempted. When you sin, it is an offense against the Father, it is a disgrace to the Son, and it grieves the Holy Spirit. It also does damage in your life and affects those around you. Ask God to create in you a healthy fear of sin and its consequences;

(9) **Plead that God would enable you to apply Romans 6:11 to your life (Romans 6:2,11).** In Romans 6:11, the apostle declares that we are to

count ourselves as dead to sin. This means that you are to consider yourself dead to sin. It no longer has control of you. As a believer, you have been crucified with Christ and given new life. Sin no longer rules over you. You are not under its powerful control. This is something that you must believe. The devil does not want you to believe this; he wants you to think that you are a helpless victim who has no hope of gaining victory over sin in your life. Yet, the opposite is true. Through Jesus Christ, the power of sin has been broken in your life. You can overcome sin and obey God. You must believe this and act on this in faith. When you are tempted to sin, you must consider and act on the fact that the temptation has any power over you. Ask God to increase your faith in this truth. Believe this and live daily in the victory accomplished through Jesus Christ;

(10) **Call on God to burn into your heart that sin is an offense against God (Psalm 51:4; Genesis 39:9; Romans 3:23; 1 John 3:4).** Sin is first and foremost rebellion against God. It may be against others and it may affect others. However, above all, it is a personal rebellion against God. This is what makes it such an evil. Sin is such an evil because it is committed against such a loving, merciful, and holy God. This is something that you must understand and remember, especially when you are tempted. Ask God to cause you to have a greater awareness of this;

(11) **Ask God to destroy any complacency that you have toward sin (Romans 8:12-13).** The pursuit of the believer's life is to hate sin and to root it out of his life. This is to characterize the life of every believer. It is dangerous for a believer to develop a spirit of compromise and tolerance when it comes to sin. You do live in a sinful environment that is constantly bombarding you with sinful thoughts, images, and actions. It is very easy to develop a spirit of compromise and tolerance. You can do this without ever realizing that it is happening. It is a slow and gradual descent. Plead that God will destroy any complacency that you have toward sin. Call on Him to remove any spirit or compromise that you have developed toward that which is displeasing in His sight;

(12) **Plead with God to give you a special sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and His leadings and conviction (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16-18; Ephesians 4:30).** The Holy Spirit is the One who convicts you of your sin and creates holiness and godliness in your life. He is the One who empowers you to overcome temptation. He is utterly essential in your being able to overcome temptation and to grow in godly character. Ask God to give you a special sensitivity to His work in your life. Call on to make you especially sensitive to the Holy Spirit concerning those things that are displeasing in your life;

(13) **Ask God to reveal to you the sinful attitudes and habits that you have in your life that are displeasing to Him (Psalm 139:23-24).** There are sinful attitudes and habits that each believer develops and becomes comfortable with in his or her life. Ask God to reveal any sinful attitude or habit that you are nursing and cherishing;

(14) **Pray that you will not become spiritually lazy in dealing with sin (Mark 13:37; Deuteronomy 32:29; Hebrews 6:11-12; 2 Peter 1:5-11).** It is very dangerous for a believer to get lazy when it comes to dealing with sin. Believers often don't take time or don't make the time to examine their lives to deal with the sin that they have committed. Do not allow this to happen in your life! Call on God to give you a spirit of diligence when it comes to this matter. Confess and repent of spiritual laziness!

Every Christian is going to face temptation to sin. This is the common experience of all the children of God. Yet, the good news is that the believer is not helpless nor hopeless in the face of temptation. You do not have to be the victim of temptation. You can overcome! You must call on God to enable you to overcome and to enable you to use what He has given you in order to defeat the temptations that come your way. Through prayer, you can win the battle with temptation!

The Beloved Unbeliever Network is a network of intercessors who pray for believers who have the spouses that are not Christians. These intercessors have been trained and are committed to praying for believers who find themselves in this type of marriage. If you would like to be added to this prayer list or if you know of someone who is in this situation and would like to place them on this prayer list, please contact Dr. Kevin Meador.

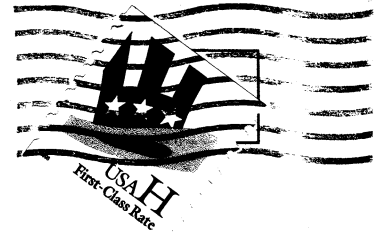
Please provide the following information:

Name of family members
Church affiliation
Any special requests

Any information that is submitted will be kept in strict confidence and the privacy of the individuals will be protected.



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