

**Getting Clean Before God**  
**The Path to Holiness**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

After you have spent time in genuine praise and worship, you are ready to enter a period of confession and cleansing. This is the time God will search your heart and cleans you from any sin that would hinder your power to pray. It is during the time of confession and repentance that God corrects and adjusts your life. Confession and repentance is how we grow and allow God to conform us to the image of Christ. How much do we hear about holiness and sanctification?

James 5:16 It is impossible to pray powerful, Spirit-led prayers if there is unconfessed sin between you and God.

Psalms 139:23-24

Many people have little prayer power because they fail to practice meaningful confession on a daily basis. No one can be truly cleansed and full of God's Spirit with such shallow confession. Because we lack confession, many prayers are dry and powerless. The depth and power of your life will never be greater than the depth of your daily confession and cleansing. We need to be praying on solid ground and never assume that everything is right between us and God

Jeremiah 17:9 It is incredibly easy for me to ignore my own sins

Psalms 66:18 Lack of confession makes our prayers dry and powerless.

## **Shantung Revival**

### **I. First Category: Sins of Thoughts and Attitudes**

Sin begins in the realm of our spirit thoughts and attitudes      Matthew 15:19      2 Corinthians 10:5

Are there unclean or lustful thoughts?

Thoughts consumed with earthly pursuits?

Thoughts of anger and bitterness?

Unloving thoughts?

Attitudes of pride, prejudice, lukewarmness toward God?

Ask God to reveal any pattern of attitude or thought that is sinful.

### **II. Second Category: Sins of Speech**

Matthew 12:36      James 3:10      Deuteronomy 5:11

Using coarse or profane words, gossip, slander, unkind or unloving words to or about others, critical speech, exaggerations or untruths, speaking when we should be silent.

Be sensitive to the fact that God will lead you to apologize to people you have hurt with your words.

### **III. Third Category: Relationship Sins**

A. Can you think of people you may have hurt or offended in some manner?      Matthew 5:23-24  
Do not approach God until you first get right with those you have offended.

B. Are you bitter or holding grudges against people who have offended you?      Matthew 6:14-15  
We must be willing to forgive people from our heart.      Matthew 18:35  
Forgiveness is a choice not a feeling.

C. Are you involved in any improper relationships?  
Emotionally, physically, immoral.

D. Do you neglect regular fellowship and meaningful service through your church?      Hebrews 10:25  
Are you a spectator or a participant?  
How much do you give to the church?

E. Are your family relationships consistent with God's Word?

Husbands and Fathers Ephesians 5:25, Ephesians 5:23, 1 Peter 3:7, Ephesians 6:4

Wives Ephesians 5:24, 33, 1 Peter 3:3

Parents Matthew 18:6

**IV. Fourth Category: Sins of Commission and Transgression**

Doing something wrong or breaking God's law.

1 John 1:9

**V. Fifth Category: Sins of Omission**

Failure to obey Christ's commands or conform our character to His image.

James 4:17

Neglecting Bible reading and prayer, failure to witness, failure to tithe, neglecting worship,  
refusing to use your spiritual gifts.

Confession is not genuine until to make the commitment to forsake the sin.

Proverbs 28:13

Do not be overwhelmed. Focus on what God wants most which is a relationship with us. This relationship is not a formula to be followed. Remember that confession must come with repentance. There is a difference between remorse (feeling bad about your sin) and repentance (turning from that sin to a deeper walk with God).