

IMPACT

I Must **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: I John 1:7-10 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

Quote: “None but a child of God cares for the eye of God, but where there is grace in the soul it reflects a fearful guilt upon every evil act, when we remember that *the God whom we offend was present when the trespass was committed.*” Charles Spurgeon

Those who have been given the in-dwelling Holy Spirit through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ know the agony of battling the remnants of what the Bible calls our “old man.” They know by experience the wretchedness that Paul speaks of in Romans 7 where he writes, “...I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”¹ Deliver means “to rescue from danger,” and was used of a soldier pulling his wounded comrade from the battlefield.”² A day is coming when Christ will return, the battles will end, and we will be delivered from the presence of sin. Until then, we must intentionally wage warfare against our flesh, or our “sinful bent,” through God’s enabling.

We must also plead for His forgiveness when we fail. Tragically, there are professing Christians who categorize their sins into “bad sins,” “not-so-bad sins,” and “everybody’s-doing-it” sins. Instead of condemning and confessing their sin, they make excuses for it, marginalize it, or even camouflage it under a cloak of Christian liberty. As a believer’s understanding of God’s holiness deepens, he becomes more aware of his own sinfulness. He senses an *increased* need for confession of sin and a growing appreciation for God’s long-suffering

and grace. He dreads the thought of broken fellowship with God and loathes his failures to “flee youthful lusts and to pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”³

The account of David’s sin and restoration offers warning, instruction and encouragement. He wrote, “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For *I acknowledge my transgressions*, and my sin is always before me. *Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight*—That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.”⁴ David pled, “Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation...!” To maintain or restore fellowship with God, we must *recognize* sinful thoughts and deeds, *repent* of them and *refrain* from continuing in them. We must *repent* like David before we can ever *rejoice* like David who wrote, “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer.... *I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden.* I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,’ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.... For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him. You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.... Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, *all you upright in heart!*⁵ If your joy is lacking, recognize your sin, repent of it and refrain from it. Like David, you can rejoice in God’s long-suffering and faithfulness to forgive the confessions of a contrite heart!

Joy through confession!

1 Romans 7:22-25 2 J. MacArthur 3 II Timothy 2:22 4 Psalm 51:2-4
5 Psalm 32