

Confession (condensed from the teachings of Kenneth Hagin)

Confession is a powerful tool of God. When some hear the word “confession” they think only of confessing sins, weaknesses, and failings. This is the negative side of confession and it includes the believer’s confession of sins when he is out of fellowship with God.

1 John 1:8-10

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

There is a positive side of confession too, and the Bible has a lot to say about it. It includes our confession of faith in God and in God’s Word.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [delivered, protected, preserved, healed, blessed to do well and be made whole] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

In seeking anything from God, you must first believe it in your heart because the Word says it; next you must confess with your mouth.

Mark 11:23

I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.

You see that in one sense, then, what you confess in faith actually creates something.

The word “confess” means more than simply admitting our sin. It’s actually the Greek word “homologeō” to confess, acknowledge, agree, admit, declare. It can be a profession of allegiance, an admission of bad behavior, or an emphatic declaration of truth. The first part of the word, “homo” means the same, and the second part, “logo” means word. Confession then means to agree with God’s word, to speak the same as God speaks. To walk in victory we must learn to confess God’s truth over ourselves every day.

God wants our confession of faith to be public, that is, to other men. This indicates a break with the world. It defines our position by showing a change of lordship. The confession of the lordship of Jesus puts us immediately under his sovereignty, care and protection. We confess the lordship of the risen Jesus Christ to men, to God Himself and to Satan. In this way we overcome the world and the devil and have victory through Jesus. **Matthew 10:32-33** reads “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.”

What are some of the things that “confession” does and what does it look like in the life of a believer?

- ✦ **First**, confession preaches the Word of God. It says the same as what God says. It speaks out what the scripture says. Just after Jesus was taken up to heaven **Mark 16:20** reads *Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

The Holy Spirit works in connection with the preaching of the Word. In obedience to Jesus' command to go into all the world and preach, the disciples went forth preaching and the Lord worked with them, confirming the Word with signs following. God allowed the disciples to preach, then signs followed. Signs don't follow an individual unless he's giving out the Word. Signs follow the Word. Give the Word out and the signs will take care of themselves. If signs aren't following you, you aren't preaching the Word. The less you preach opinion and the more you preach the undiluted Word of God, the more you will see signs following.

- **Second**, confession dispels fear. Fear indicates doubt that God will deliver, heal, protect, provide for or care for you. We are to cast off fear and look to the Word.

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Instead of talking about difficulties and impossibilities, speak the Word over whatever situation you are in.

1 John 4:4 (KJV)

Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world.

Speak to your problem, your mountain, and tell it how big and able your God is.

Romans 8:31

If God be for us, who can be against us?

As you speak positive confessions of faith, your fears flee before the truth. You will not fear circumstances, disease, lack, or conditions.

Romans 8:37

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

You will face life fearlessly as a conqueror when you confess who you are in Christ and who he is in you.

- **Third**, confessions increase faith. Confessing the Word builds faith. Faith, like love, is of the true heart and of the spirit. And we know there is no love without word or action. We cannot reason love into people, nor can we reason it out of them. It's of the true heart and spirit. And faith is the same. We cannot reason it into us or out of us.

Confession identifies the believer as belonging to God and sets the faith boundaries for his life. One reason many Christians, although sincere are weak, is because they have not made a confession of who and what they are in Christ. We must find out how God looks at us and then confess it. Your daily confession of what the Father is to you, of what Jesus is doing for you now at the right hand of the Father, and of what the Holy Spirit is doing in you builds a solid, positive faith life.

A positive confession of faith says what is true in a number of areas:

- 1) What God has done *for us* in the plan of redemption.
- 2) What God has done *in us* through his Word and his Spirit.
- 3) *What and who we are* to the Father in Jesus Christ
- 4) *What Jesus is accomplishing for us* now at the Father's right hand where he makes intercession for us.
- 5) *What God can accomplish through us.*

Confession, then, is testifying to something we know to be true from the Word. It's always possible to tell if a person is believing right by what he says. If his confession is wrong, his believing is wrong. If his believing is wrong, his thinking is wrong. If his thinking is wrong, it's because his mind has not been renewed with the Word of God, so man can't perceive the truth.

Isaiah 55 says *God's thoughts and ways are higher than man's*. When the teaching of the Word of God doesn't seem reasonable to us, it's because our minds have not been renewed by the Word. Our intellect and physical senses fight to keep us from entering into the spiritual realm and hold us in the natural realm. Believing, thinking and saying are all one package. If you first speak out what the Bible says is truth, the next step is to line up your thinking with that truth so your believing is right. When what we say, think and believe all agree with what God says, we've arrived, right?

- Last point, the confession of our lips will give *either Satan or God dominion over us*. Wrong confession is a confession of defeat and failure and the supremacy of Satan. It keeps us in bondage and defeat. Any confession that glorifies Satan is really an unconscious declaration that God is a failure. On the other hand, when God has dominion, he fills us with power, love and a sound mind. (**2 Timothy 1:7**) When Satan has dominion we are deceived and filled with weakness and fear. Fear is not something that usually comes from inside you. It is something that comes from the outside, trying to get hold of you. It comes from the enemy. The same is true of doubt. When you confess doubts, the enemy is speaking. Many people think they are being honest when they confess doubt. The Word says to resist the devil and he will flee from you. Submit yourselves, then, to God.

James 4:7

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Refuse to doubt. Confess faith.

Right confession glorifies God. Start talking about who you are and what you are in Christ, a believer, a new creature, a child of God, a person with a spirit of power, love and a sound mind, not a doubter or fearer. Confess your Father's care and protection, his Word and that what he says about you is true, that he is greater in you than Satan is in this world, that you will rise above Satanic influence and walk in victory because of what Christ has done for you. These kinds of confessions bring us into agreement with what God says and the truth of the Bible. The confession of your lips that has grown out of faith and is based on what the Word says will absolutely defeat the devil and give you victory.