

A TIME TO CONFESS

The word "confess" in Hebrew means "to extend an open hand to God in agreement".

The word "confess" in Greek means "to agree with God".

The word "confess" in Latin means "to speak with in agreement".

1. What do we need to agree with God about? Match the statement with the verse.
 - a. Acts 19:18 _____ Now I **belong** to Jesus
 - b. 1 Timothy 6:12 _____ I take full **responsibility** for disobeying God.
 - c. Mark 1:5 _____ I now had **eternal life** through Jesus Christ my Lord.
 - d. 2 Timothy 2:19 _____ I admit my **guilt** for the sins I am committed.
 - e. Proverbs 28:13 _____ I admit that I feel the **conviction** of God & will respond.
 - f. Daniel 28:13 _____ I have been **delivered** by God from many evil things.
 - g. Numbers 5:7 _____ I deeply feel that my sharing will include **tears**.
 - h. Psalm 32:4 _____ One day I **repented** & accepted Christ as Savior
 - i. Ezra 10:1 _____ I should ask **forgiveness** from someone I offended.
 - j. James 5:16 _____ I stand totally upon the **mercy** of God.

2. What does it mean to you to "belong" to Jesus? _____

3. Mankind does not like to take responsibility for anything; it's the other guy's fault. Tell me how you have personally moved past this.

4. How would you explain "eternal life" to someone who is not a believer?

5. God uses guilt to make us willing to turn back to Him after we have run away. If "guilt" = "I am sorry for what I did" and "shame" = "I am sorry for who I am", THEN, what is the difference between the two? _____

6. When you sin (disobey God), is it not the conviction (working) of the Holy Spirit that causes the guilt to come over you. __Yes __No

7. I grew up knowing that men do not cry. One day I was reading Jesus' arrest & trial. Peter had denied Jesus already; he knew he blew it. Then, Jesus looked at him from the courtyard with that "I love you" look. That did it; Peter left and cried his eyes out. Has this happened to you? Explain. _____

Remember, that "tears" shows that your heart is hurt, bleeding, but healing.

Confession is usually associated with admitting the sin, turning away from the sin, and asking God to forgive the sin. We are all sinners; we will always be sinners; we will always fail; God will always forgive. **Yet, God will forgive us, strengthen us, and send us on the next mission.**

HERE WE HAVE THE CONTENTS OF A CONFESSION. (Psalm 51)

1Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

2Wash away all my iniquity and **cleanse** me from my sin. **3**For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. **4**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. **5**Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. **6**Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

7Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; **wash** me, and I will be whiter than snow. **8Let me hear joy** and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. **9Hide** your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. **10Create** in me a pure heart, O God, and **renew** a steadfast spirit within me. **11**Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. **13**Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. **14Deliver** me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

15Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. **16**You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. **17**My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

- 8. Have you noticed that after you have a sinful binge, you regret it after a while, and you ask for God’s mercy because you know you did wrong & deserve punishment? Yes No
- 9. Remember the last time you hit the “sin skids”? Did you feel dirty? Yes No
- 10. After another sin failure, we usually are depressed and without hope & joy. We do not always put the failure as the cause of the hopelessness – but it is. Yes No
- 11. When sin takes me over and wins, I feel like I need to start all over again because the life I now have is fake, inconsistent, and not capable of doing the right thing. Yes No
- 12. After a failure, how do I get past it? Will I do it again? Yes No
- 13. When I teach or worship after my failures, will I be able to admit to the failures, commit to a new direction, and ask for strength to start over? Yes No

HERE IS THE CONFESSION "FLOW CHART". (Fill in the correct verse for each statement.)

Verse	What I Must Do	Verse	What God Must Do
	I acknowledge or admit my sins.		He will have mercy on the sinner.
	I admit that what I have done is evil.		He will wash & clean me. (First mention)
	I admit that I deserve the punishment of God.		He will clean me and wash me. (Second mention)
	I agree that I was born with a sinful nature.		He will hide (forgive) my sins.
	Let me allow myself to hear the joy of God.		He will create a new & transformed heart in me.
	I will teach unbelievers the way to God.		He will renew my faithfulness & self-control.
	I will preach & sing about your holiness.		He will hold me tight in His presence.
	My mouth will tell the truth about God.		He will restore the joy that I had before.
	I will give my broken, humble heart to God		He will give me a willing & obedient attitude.
			He will deliver me from the guilt.
			He will open my mouth with courage.
			He will accept my broken, humble heart.