

AUTHENTIC PRAYER: CONFESSING

Psalm 51
July 19, 2009

Why is it so important to confess our sin to God?

If you are trusting Jesus then His death has purchased and secured forgiveness for all your sins — past, present, and future (Romans 4:7-8).

But it's when we confess our sins to God that this forgiveness is applied to us, given to us, experienced by us (Matthew 6:12; I John 1:9).

How do we confess our sin?

Plead to God for mercy (vv.1-2).

Confess to God your sin (vv.3-6)

Call sin "sin" (v.3).

See your sin as evil against God which deserves God's judgment (v.4).

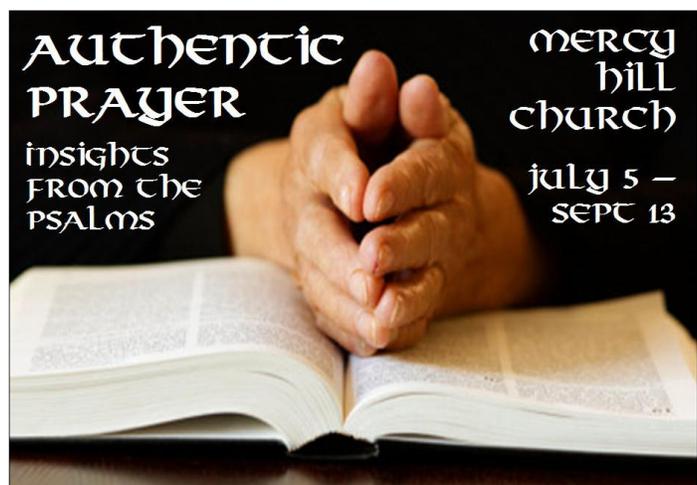
Admit that sin is part of your nature (but understand also that Jesus has broken its power)
(vv.5-6)

Ask God to forgive, cleanse, and restore you (vv.7-12)

Give God reasons for why He should do these things (vv.13-19)

Why is David's confession so long?

He's not just saying words —
he's asking God to apply Jesus' work on the Cross to him in an experienced way:
forgiveness given, heart-cleansed, joy restored.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

Read Psalm 51.

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

What has been your usual approach to confession of sin? How has it been different from David's approach?

In the past, why have you thought confession was important. Does it make sense that through Jesus' death your forgiveness is purchased and secured, but that it's only applied when you actually confess sin?

What aspect of David's confession makes the most sense to you? What aspect is puzzling? Why?

What aspect of David's confession is easiest for you to do? What part is hardest? Why?

Have you had a time when as a result of confessing sin you had a powerful experience of forgiveness? A sense of cleansing? An experience of restored joy in Jesus?

What's your take-away from this passage? What are you going to do differently? When?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

