

## **The Other Side of Confession**

There is a side of the Moon we never see from the Earth. However, just because we cannot see it does not mean it is not there.

This side is often referred to as “the dark side,” because it does not receive the light of the Sun. When men went to the Moon, they traveled to this dark side, sent down a flare, and we got our first glimpse of what we had been missing. But it was no surprise, because it looked just like the visible side of the Moon! Still, once light revealed the unknown, the mystery was removed.

There is a truth in the Bible which also has a “dark side” to it, and that is *the principle of confession*. There has been a great deal of teaching on this subject in recent years, and, frankly, some has been excessive. However, we need to learn from the excess of the past without throwing out the foundational teachings which have brought us this far.

For example, biblical prosperity has been abused and misused by many Christians, but financial blessing is still a part of God’s plan for the believer today, and it must be taught. The same is true for other major doctrines of our faith, such as righteousness, healing, the gifts of the Holy Spirit – and confession.

The truths of God’s Word which we hold dear never become old or out of date. These foundational truths must be taught again and again and learned by each new generation of Christians.

Although the teaching on confession has been criticized in some quarters, its truth remains, and it is more necessary today than ever before.

Some have taught that confession is simply saying “positive” things, while others have gone so far as to use it to deny the very existence of problems. Both are distortions of a very simple Bible truth.

## **Let’s Define “Confession”**

The Greek word for “confession” is *homologeō*, which means “to say the same thing.” In other words, *to say what God says in His Word*.

There are four types of confession in the Christian life:

*First*, there is *the confession for salvation*. This is found in Romans 10:9,10, and it is what brings us out of Satan’s kingdom into the Kingdom of God. God raised His Son from the dead and declared Him to be Lord, and He wants us “to say the same thing.” When we do, we are born again.

*Second*, there is *the confession of forgiveness*. As believers, we still sin, and when we do, we need to confess our sins. The Bible tells us this in First John 1:9. God knows we have sinned, Jesus also knows it, and we need “to say the same thing.” When we confess our sins, they are immediately forgiven, and we are cleansed from all unrighteousness.

*Third*, We are given *the confession of the Word*. This is the confession over which Jesus is the High Priest (Hebrews 3:1). It is also the confession to which we are to hold fast without wavering (Hebrews 10:23).

This is the daily confession of the promises of God in the face of the opposition. Jesus set the example for us in Luke 4:1-13, when He met the temptations of Satan three times with the words “It is written” and with Scripture He “said the same thing” as His Father had said in His Word, and He soundly defeated the enemy.

### **Confession’s Unseen Side**

*Fourth*, there is “the dark side” of this truth, which is *speaking a curse*. Although some believers know it is there, they do not want to consider it, much less use it. However, most Christians do not even know it exists.

But let’s not live in ignorance any longer! I want to drop a flare – the light of God’s Word – on the subject, and we will find out it’s not so frightening. You will see that in this type of confession God has given us another powerful tool to use against Satan.

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

Proverbs 18:21

We are eating the fruit of only one half of our confession, which is to speak life – to be saved, forgiven, overcome temptation, and appropriate the promises of God. *But God also gave us, His children, the power to curse!*

You probably are as quiet and stunned as my congregation was when I first mentioned this subject on a Sunday morning! Speaking a curse is so forbidding, many Christians shudder to think that God would entrust it to us.

We think cursing is something only Satan and his children do, a practice for witches and devil worshippers. But consider this: *Where do you think Satan got the idea?*

In fact, the first one to curse was God Himself, and He cursed Satan (Isaiah 14:12-16 and Ezekiel 28:16-19). Jesus not only gave us the power to *loose* but also to *bind* (Matthew 18:18). This fourth type of confession is our *rebuke*.

It is *not* to be used against God or other Christians; but only against Satan and his works – just as God used the power of the curse against Satan and his works in eternity past.

In His earthly ministry, Jesus, our example, *used the power of rebuke more than any other type of confession.*

### **Jesus' Earthly Ministry**

In our churches, we usually pray for the sick according to James 5:14-16. This is not wrong, but it is only a small part of the way we are to minister to the sick.

If Jesus is our example, we need to see how the sick were healed by Him. This may surprise you, but *Jesus never prayed for the sick; He rebuked sickness.*

When someone is ill, what are we going to ask God to do when we pray: heal the sick? If we do, we are then asking Him to do something He has already done. He has already healed and removed sickness through the work of Jesus on the cross.

Therefore, sickness is nothing more than a trespasser. We, like Jesus, need to rebuke sickness and command it to leave on the authority of His completed work.

Let's look at the scriptures and find how Jesus ministered to the sick. In the fourth chapter of Luke, Jesus ministered to the sick and the demon possessed three times.

The first time, He delivered a man with an unclean spirit:

*And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. Luke 4:35*

In the next case, Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, who was sick with a fever:

*And He stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them. Luke 4:39*

The last situation involved those who were possessed of many demons:

*Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them.*

*And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And He rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that He was Christ. Luke 4:40,41*

Jesus *rebuked* sickness the same way He rebuked demons. We know that demons can hear, but the amazing thing is, so can sickness! In fact, *everything in creation can hear God's Word.*

Jesus also spoke to *the fig tree*, and it obeyed Him and died (Mark 11:13,14,20). He told us if we would speak in faith to *the mountain* (Mark 11:23) and *the sycamine tree* (Luke 17:6), they would also hear us. Thus, any work of Satan can be spoken to, and it will hear and obey!

If we resist the devil, the Bible says he will flee from us (James 4:7), and one effective way to resist him is by our rebuke. Not only will Satan flee from us, but he must abandon his works of evil in our lives.

### **The Meaning of Rebuke**

The Greek word for “rebuke” is *epitimao*. It is a compound word, made up of two parts. *Epi* means “upon” or “higher.” *Timao* means “to judge.” Thus, the word *epitimao* means “to judge from a higher standard.

The disciples of Jesus were amazed to find demons were subject to them through Jesus’ name. Jesus told them, “I give unto you power over the enemy...” (Luke 10:19). Serpents and scorpions represent demons. They have been placed under our feet through the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22).

The new birth puts us above demons. We have the right to judge them from a higher position and put them under foot through the authority given to us in Jesus’ name.

Furthermore, Jesus told His disciples they had authority over all the power of the enemy. These are the works of Satan which do not always come from demons, including bodily sickness, financial lack, depression, oppression, and a host of other problems we face in life.

Jesus rebuked lunatic demons (Matthew 17:18), unclean spirits (Mark 1:25,26), and deaf and dumb spirits (Mark 9:25-27). But He also rebuked *fever* (Luke 4:39) and *winds* (Matthew 8:26).

We, like Jesus, need to use the power of rebuke, not only against demons, but also against *the works of Satan* – the daily attacks of life.

## **The Power of Our Daily Rebuke**

Paul brought the power of rebuke into our everyday life in Romans 8. This chapter tells us of the beauty of the Spirit-filled and controlled life (verses 2-4). At the end of the chapter, Paul admonishes us to be bold with our mouth against the works of Satan; those circumstances which come against all of us daily.

The world is not only filled with demons, but also with a curse placed here at the time of Adam's transgression (Romans 8:20-22). This curse will continue until the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus. The curse brings evil circumstances against us, just as it did with Jesus.

*The same rebuke we use against demons should also be turned against evil circumstances.*

*What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?...*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...*

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

*Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:31,35,38,39*

We speak to *things*. We say to the circumstances of life, lack of food and clothing, distressing situations, persecution from sinners, fear of the present or future, "If God be for me, you cannot be against me."

The power of rebuke is not only against an occasional demon or sickness; it is also against the trials of life which come to us every single day. Like demons, these circumstances have "ears," and they can hear. So rebuke them in the authority of the name of Jesus!

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