



Sermon Series: Authentic Christian Living
To be used with Session 5: Confess Wholeheartedly
Sermon Title Possibilities:
Authentic Confession: Daniel 9:3-10,17-19

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study "Confess Wholeheartedly," this sermon reminds that the Christian life is marked by constant repentance and faith. It encourages us to practice confession wholeheartedly.

Introduction

Daniel read the book of Jeremiah and understood the sins of the children of Israel, and that they were under judgment. Daniel responding to the sin of the nation with fasting and prayer. Daniel's prayer teaches us something about what true repentance looks like. In this message, I want to impress upon you to ***Practice Confession to the Lord, Pursue Closeness with the Lord, and Pray Confidently in the Lord.***

1. Practice Confession to the Lord (v. 3-6).

Daniel turned his attention to the Lord. Daniel fasted as he prayed to the Lord. And Daniel confessed the sins of the people of God to the Lord. Daniel owned the sins of the people as if they were his own. His confession followed a pattern. First, he extolled God. And secondly, he enumerated their sins.

Daniel teaches us to exalt God and to enumerate our sins when we confess our sins to the Lord. Friends, we must keep short accounts in our sins. We must own our sins and the sins of the people we lead. The Bible teaches that when we conceal our sins we will not prosper, but when we confess and renounce our sins, we find mercy from the Lord (Prov. 28:13).

2. Pursue Closeness with the Lord (v. 7-10).

When Daniel says to the Lord "righteousness belongs to You," and "Compassion and forgiveness belongs to the Lord our God" he was seeking the righteousness, compassion, and forgiveness of the Lord. These are the means to closeness with Him. Granted, we can never lose our relationship with the Lord, but sin destroys our fellowship with the Lord. Our recognition of our infractions toward God is the first step to be restored to our intimacy with God (I. John 1:9). Increase and guard your closeness with the Lord, by confessing your sin and asking for His righteousness, compassion, and forgiveness.

3. Pray Confidently in the Lord (v. 17-19).

Daniel sought the Lord based on His character, His compassion, and His covenant. When we pray, we ought to have confidence in His character. Come to Him on the basis of His righteousness. When we pray we ought have confidence in His compassion. The Lord has promised to never leave nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). When we pray, we ought to come to Him on the basis of His covenant. Daniel took refuge in the covenant the Lord made with Abraham. We take refuge in the new covenant in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

You engage in “Authentic Christian Living” when you Practice Confession to the Lord, when you Pursue Closeness with the Lord, & when you Pray Confidently in the Lord.

Author Bio

Reginald D. Taylor is a graduate of Crichton College, Union University, Capital Seminary, and is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the senior Pastor of The Rock Church in Southaven, MS, and Assistant Professor/Director of Urban Theological Studies at MCUTS @ Union University in Memphis. He and his wife Dr. Tarra R. Taylor has one son—Reginald D. Taylor II—and three grandchildren Micah, Yara, and Aviyah.