

OWNERSHIP

PART 3

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We will take up two or three promises, the first of which is found in 1 John 1 :9— *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

The first step on our part must be a full confession of sin. This acknowledgment and confession of sin must be a real one. Allow us to give you an illustration: If you are in heaps of trouble, out of one trouble into another, or you cannot get your prayers answered, You may rest assured there is something in your life that needs to be searched out, confessed, and forsaken before God. The confession of sin and the actual, true acknowledgment of just exactly what we are, the greater the deliverance.

You would be surprised to see how Satan Likes to cover up our true condition in God's sight. You will find the majority of people saying: “I do not harm anybody; I read my Bible once in a while; I am a good church member.”

Beloved, Satan can do all that. Until we confess our true condition before God, we are deceiving ourselves. If we have not met things right, if we have not had faith to receive answers to our prayers, if we will go before God and confess that unbelief and ask Him to search our heart clear to the bottom, He will show us just where we are spiritually and what the lack in our life is.

Isaiah was in that condition; he thought he was all packed up and ready for heaven. If you would have asked his wife about him, she would have said he was a lovely man; that she never had a cross word from him; that he read his Bible—much as he had of it—every day, and there was no duty he left undone. Jesus said of such people that they appeared beautiful outwardly, like white marble sepulchers; outwardly they appeared righteous unto men, Jesus had to confess that; but they had no real knowledge of God. One day God appeared unto Isaiah.

“In the year that King Uzziah. died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted

up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.

“And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” (Isaiah 6:1-5)

He saw that his religion, his church, and his profession were no good. All these things went so fast that he did not see them going; he was willing to let go of everything at the sight of the Lord of hosts. He discovered he had nothing, he saw plainly his blindness spiritually, his unbelief, and ignorance. Satan had covered all that up in his life. Beloved, God is just waiting to show that to each one of us.

Isaiah said—*“Woe is me! I am undone; I have never trusted God as He should be trusted; it is a good thing I was thrown overboard; I am a man of unclean lips, with a bad heart; there is nothing but iniquity in this heart of mine.”*

Beloved, that man acknowledged his true condition before God; he said—“Lord, I am no good; I am filled with Satan and his ways; my life is not what it should be.” Beloved, is that not something to know? He confessed all that to God; he did not take any length of time to consider the matter, to make up his mind to make a clean sweep of things in his life. He went before God immediately and said—“I am no good.” Beloved, what God will not do for a person who takes that attitude.

“Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also, I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.” (Isaiah 6:6-8)

That is God's order of deliverance, just as Isaiah saw it; his sins were pardoned, his iniquity purged. God had fully pardoned and cleansed him and told him He had done so, and that he was a righteous man. That is all the evidence he had that he was pardoned, cleansed, and filled with

God's righteousness. He did not feel it, neither could he see it.

The word plainly states, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

When we acknowledge just what we are, when we confess our blindness, our ignorance of God and His truth; that God has never changed, that He is no different from what He was in Bible times, and acknowledge that we do not know God; when we confess that we are under the direct control of Satan and have been listening to his lies and believing him more than we have God's Word, just as Daniel did, when he felt his own weakness, he was brought to an attitude where he could seek God and receive glorious victory.

"O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto Thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against Thee."

"O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against Thee."
(Daniel 9:7-8)

Daniel acknowledged that shame and confusion was just what they deserved; but to God belonged loving kindness, tender mercy, and forgiveness. Beloved, is that not a wonderful truth?

So, a real confession, a real stating of facts concerning ourselves before God, telling Him our true condition is of the utmost importance. Then God does something, just as He did for Isaiah. Just a step puts us right under the Blood. This is expressed in the verse we have just quoted—*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Beloved, that is a definite statement; that we are placed under the Blood. When you get a dollar bill, you do not write down to Washington to ascertain whether it is worth one hundred cents, do you? You do not call up the President of the United States and say: "I have a dollar bill in my possession of the 2021 series and it being four years old, I desire to know whether it is worth its full value?"

Beloved, you do not need to ask anyone about that bill, whether it is four years old or a

quarter of a century old; when it bears the words "The United States of America" and has the treasurer's name in the corner, you are assured it is all right.

Well now, God's "dollar bills tell us if we confess our sins that God has given us one hundred percent of pardon; that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. After you had called Washington concerning the dollar bill, you would not try to see how you felt about it being worth one dollar; but that is just what we do when it comes to divine things. We say: "Well, I do not feel that I have one hundred percent of pardon; I do not feel I have one hundred percent of cleansing."

Beloved, it is just as foolish to try to see or feel our pardon and cleansing, as it is to call Washington to discover whether that dollar bill is worth one hundred cents.

It is just the same principle involved, as God says the "promises are yea and amen in Christ Jesus"—the same as legal tender; they cannot be discounted; God says they are one hundred cents on the dollar because God has been back of them for over 2000 years.

Just as we accept that dollar bill at the face value, we can use the promises, accept them at their face value, because God has told us just where we are and what we may expect; that we are pardoned and cleansed. The pastor continued: "Beloved, if we only knew the importance of this—I do not know how many people realize this truth—I would not judge—but I can guarantee there are some people who can honestly say—"We are cleansed from all sin, because we have confessed them to God, and His Word says that He has cleansed us from all unrighteousness."

Now you lay aside the promise; Satan comes along and puts these thoughts into your mind—"You are not cleansed; you are not pardoned; your sins are not forgiven." You are not aware that Satan put that thought there; you believe it is only a thought of your mind, and you say—"That is so, I have not been cleansed."

Beloved, that is usually the way Satan works successfully. Suppose you get the idea that your dollar bill was not a good one and you would take it back, no one could sell you goods. When you take that promise and hand it back to God, He cannot pardon or cleanse you. Beloved, we must take God's promises for one hundred cents

on the dollar, and if we will take God's promises the same as we do the currency of the United States, we will see ourselves cleansed and pardoned. We may not be good judges of spiritual matters ourselves; God alone knows the heart; we do not know just what we are, or where we are; but God's Word says we are pardoned and cleansed when we confess, and we should BELIEVE it.

Beloved, if we take our stand on that Word, we will become partakers of the divine nature. It all hinges right there. If we accept God's Word at its face value, regardless of the lies of Satan, regardless of his temptations and efforts to make us doubt; and make a final decision if we never see or never feel that we are pardoned or cleansed, we are going to believe that there is not one thing against us in Heaven, that Satan's power over us is broken and gone; that we are indeed cleansed from all sin; we will find that God's Word is true.

However, there is one condition, which is the only possibility of ever being partakers of the divine nature, which is the foundation of preparation for the real life of Christ. I desire to say said the pastor if you have received that promised blessing, that most valuable possession of a pure heart, you shall also have the privilege of seeing God.

If you get a deliverance from that carnal mind and way, have the idolatry cleansed out of your heart, that tendency to lean on everybody and everything but God and accept it in the right way, which is to believe you receive according to the promise, and settle it that if you die in your sins, you will never wait to see or feel the cleansing; you will believe you have the pardon and cleansing regardless of what you see and feel.

Then God says if we confess our sins—a real, honest acknowledgment of our true condition, of our blindness, our ignorance, our hypocrisy, our unbelief, our disobedience, and rebellion and lay it before God, without a sign or feeling of any kind whatever, if we feel good, bad, or indifferent has not a thing to do with it. All that is involved is whether that Word is true, or not; just the same as if the wording on the dollar bill is true.

It will pass anywhere, and so will the promise of God that we are pardoned and cleansed when we confess. His Word is true

whether we see or feel it, or not. All we have to settle is—does God.

Tell the truth, is it really true that these promises mean as much as the dollar?

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Two things will be apparent in our life when that cleansing power operates: the power of sin will be broken from that moment, and our only question will be: "Where is God, how can I find God, how can I know God, my soul wants God;" that will be the cry of our heart when this cleansing and pardon takes place. "Where can I find the road which leads to God?" Our supreme desire will be to please God.

Beloved, we will begin to grow and develop, and something else will also happen, we will take to divine healing for these bodies as a duck takes to water, after this heart is fully cleansed. The with God's financial plan; your cry will be: "That is just what I am waiting for."

You will also welcome the doctrine concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ. As you get your heart cleansed, your eyes will be opened to see the condition of the world and the churches, and that never in the history of the world was it more under the control of Satan. Our only hope, when Jesus comes, will be to see Him on the *"Lion of the tribe of Judah, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."* (Revelation 5:5)

When our hearts are cleansed, we will not reject one doctrine of the Bible.



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