

THE GREAT CONFESSION

MARK HANKINS

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Unless otherwise indicated all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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1

The Great Confession: A Verbal Response

The confession of our faith is one of the most important, significant, and valuable teachings in all the Word of God.

-Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin

Christianity is built on the confession of faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. It is called “The Great Confession.” The Great Confession springs from a divinely granted revelation of Christ that will radically change your identity and even your name, as in the case of Peter, the disciple of Jesus. Peter was a fisherman who was following Jesus, hearing His teaching and seeing miracles until one day everything changed. Jesus asked him a question. “Who do men say that I am?” The conversation went like this:

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 16:15-17

Jesus said to Peter who do you say that I am? At that moment Peter's spiritual eyes were opened and he knew in his heart that Jesus was the Son of the living God. He made a confession of faith. That confession is the bedrock belief on which Christianity is built. As soon as Peter told Jesus who He was, Jesus turned to Peter and told him who he was. Matthew 16:18 says, *"I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* Peter was changed in that moment. Peter's identity and destiny were transformed not only because of his revelation, but because of his confession of Jesus Christ.

DEFINITION OF CONFESSION

In the New Testament the word "confession" means to agree with or to say the same thing. In the life of a believer, it is saying out loud, agreeing with, acknowledging the supremacy of God's Word over anything or any other evidence. Paul gives this clear explanation of what happens when someone believes and confesses the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT CONFESSION: JESUS IS LORD

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9, 10

What kind of confession is this? Paul is talking about the initial confession all of us made as Christians. In other words, you can confess your sin all day long and still not get saved. The confession that saves you is "Jesus is Lord." You acknowledge that He took your sin and curse and when He was

raised from the dead, you were declared justified. The Bible says we must hold fast to our confession or profession of faith.

One of the most fundamental things in your Christian faith is the initial and continual confession that Jesus Christ is Lord. When you say, “Jesus is Lord,” you are saying more than you understand. The overriding emphasis is that He is Victor! He is the Supreme Authority.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Hebrews 2:14

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

I like to say it this way: *When Jesus was raised from the dead, He stepped from the tomb as absolute master of death in all of its phases; hell and all of its hosts; of Satan and all of his works; of sin and all of its consequences. He was the first of a redeemed, restored, victorious humanity that would follow. He is the Firstborn from the dead; the first Man to enter the death experience and master it. Jesus is Lord.*

A CONTINUAL AND PUBLIC CONFESSION

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Hebrews 13:15

The word “thanks” here is the same Greek word meaning to confess and acknowledge. Your faith lives and flourishes as your mouth is continually filled with praise. That praise is private but also must be public. In fact, Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32) Every time you speak of the Lordship of Christ to another person, Jesus will

confess you before the Father. Your confession on earth moves Heaven and brings the power of the Holy Spirit to the place where you are.

Peter's initial confession and revelation of Christ changed his life. It connected him to God's plan and purpose. This Great Confession was the foundation for the early church and it has never changed. Upon this rock, Jesus is building the church and the gates of hell cannot stand up to its advance.

POWER OF POSITIVE CONFESSION

Your confession of faith is not a small or minor subject. It's really a life changing subject because this is how you got saved. Confession is not an insignificant thing. It's the thing that kept you out of hell and got you into heaven. Confession is a spiritual law. The law of confession is what brings you into the reality of salvation and blessing. Satan trembles when you open the Word, but he runs when you begin to speak the Word!

In this book, we are studying the power of positive confession—confession of the blood of Jesus, who you are in Christ, and the power

of God's Word. Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin (Dad Hagin) said, "The confession of our faith is one of the most important, significant, and valuable teachings in all the Word of God."

A VERBAL RESPONSE

We don't fly on the commercial airlines much anymore, but when we do there is a row called the "exit row." The exit row has a little extra leg room and our secretary normally books us those seats. Before take-off, the flight attendant always asks us if we are ready and willing to help in the case of an emergency. One time, I nodded my head yes and she quickly replied, "I need a verbal response." In the same way, you can't just nod at the promises of God, He needs a verbal response. Fill your mouth with the Word of God, lift your voice, and expect to see the mountains in your life move.

2

Confession Precedes Possession

Nothing will establish and build your faith as quickly as the confession of who you are and what you have in Christ. Confession precedes possession.

-F.F. Bosworth

...Attentively consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession—Jesus.

Hebrews 3:1 (Rotherham)

...Inasmuch then as we have a great High Priest Who has [already] ascended and passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith in Him].

Hebrews 4:14 (Amplified)

Using the word confession in our society brings up the thought of someone admitting

to something negative. First John 1:9 speaks of confessing to the Lord our sin in order to restore fellowship with Him. However, the New Testament has much more to say about a positive confession than a negative one.

Many believers today need to recognize the power of positive confession. In other words, they need to confess what Jesus has done and is doing for them. They need to acknowledge the reality of redemption and who they are in Christ.

You need to spend time every day confessing who Jesus is and who you are in Him. We confess the power of the blood of Jesus and that in Him we are redeemed, forgiven, healed, and blessed. It is necessary for us acknowledge our redemption.

INGREDIENTS IN SPIRIT OF FAITH

To properly understand confession, we must first understand how the spirit of faith works. There are two main ingredients in the spirit of faith: believing and speaking.

*We having the same spirit of faith,
according as it is written, I believed, and*

*therefore have I spoken; we also believe,
and therefore speak.*

2 Corinthians 4:13

In this scripture, Paul is quoting the Psalmist David. David wasn't a perfect man, but David had a spirit of faith. He killed a lion, a bear, and slew Goliath.

As a believer, you believe God and you believe His Word. In order for your faith to be effective, your believing must be accompanied by speaking. When you speak the Word, you open the door to the supernatural. It's not enough just to have faith in your heart, your faith must be in your words also.

CONFESSION PRECEDES POSSESSION

Nothing will establish and build your faith as quickly as the confession of who you are and what you have in Christ. Confession precedes possession. Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. He represents and responds to our words and is waiting for us to say something that agrees with all He has done. He literally needs us to speak words of faith to activate His work and power.

Your identification with Christ is activated by the identical confession of your mouth. We must say the same thing that God says about us. Confess that, “I am who God says I am. I have what God says I have. I can do what God says I can do.” If you are not impressed with who you are in Christ, you simply have not seen Him lately. He is glorified and all-powerful and you are in Him.

When we have a positive confession we say the same thing that the Word of God says about our situation. This is such a powerful truth because it is the way we are saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:10

We are saved when we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord. Confession is acknowledging the lordship of Jesus and all that salvation includes. When these powerful words are spoken from a believer’s mouth, the human spirit is recreated and eternal life is imparted to a person. I like what F. F. Bosworth said.

A spiritual law that few recognize is that our confession rules us. It is what we confess with our lips that really dominates our inner being. Nothing will establish you and build your faith as quickly as confession. The confession of your lips that has grown out of faith in your heart will absolutely defeat the adversary in every combat. God can be no bigger in you than you confess Him to be.

WINNING WORDS WIN THE FIGHT

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:12

The Holy Spirit said through the Apostle Paul that the good fight of faith requires a good confession. The fight of faith is not a losing fight; it is a winning fight. The winning fight requires a winning confession. Jesus fought the battle for us and won. Our identification with Him demands an identical confession of faith. We win by saying the same thing.

The spirit of faith will declare the outcome in the middle of adversity. You consider Jesus and fix your eyes and your confession on Him. Acknowledge your victory in Christ Jesus by saying, “Thanks be unto God who always causeth us to triumph in Christ,” 2 Corinthians 2:14. Settle for nothing less than 100 percent victory.

ACKNOWLEDGE WHO YOU ARE

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Philemon 6

...full recognition and appreciation and understanding and precise knowledge of every good thing that is ours in (our identification with) Christ Jesus.

(AMPC)

For our faith to become fully effective, we must continually acknowledge every good thing that is in us in Christ. Sometimes our faith is like an automobile engine that has eight cylinders, but is only working on five or six. Much more power

is available when we are working on all eight cylinders.

There is a wealth of good things in you in Christ. They are not just in Christ, they are also in you because you are in Christ. There are more than 130 scriptures in the New Testament that use the phrases: In Christ, In Him, and In Whom. Every time you see those two words, underline them and say, “That’s who I am, and that’s what I have.” A good place to start is 2 Corinthians 5:17, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and 1 Corinthians 1:30. We will cover this more in a later chapter.

FITTED TO YOUR LIPS

For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips. That thy trust may be in the Lord...

Proverbs 22:18, 19

For it will be pleasant if you keep them in your mind [believing them]; your lips will be accustomed to [confessing] them.

(AMPC)

The Word of God is a custom fit for your lips. The Word of God was made to be spoken.

Confession is fundamental to faith. E. W. Kenyon said, “*Confession builds the road over which faith carries its mighty cargo.*” I like that. Your lips should be accustomed to confessing the Word of God. The Word is tailor-made for your mouth and your situation.

The Word of God was spoken before it was written and it was written so it could be spoken. Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of your confession. “*Whosoever shall say...he shall have whatsoever he saith...*” (Mark 11:23)

Jesus is literally waiting for you to speak. As we saw, the word *confess* literally means “to say the same thing.” In other words, He has already said something about you, but He needs you to say the same thing.

Every benefit and blessing that is in you in Christ must be acknowledged and declared. For salvation to work for you, it must be in your mouth. For prosperity to work for you, it must be in your mouth. Say, “*I am blessed coming in and going out. I am the head and not the tail, above and not beneath,*” Deuteronomy 28. For healing to work for you, it must be in your mouth. Say, “*...by his stripes I was*

healed,” 1 Peter 2:24. The Word will heal you if you continually confess it. There is healing and prosperity in the Word. Say what God says about you.

3

The Blood Speaks

*God is on my side,
For the blood has been applied.
Every need shall be supplied,
Nothing shall be denied.
So I enter into rest,
I know that I am blessed.
I have passed the test,
And I will get God's best!
- Trina Hankins*

*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,
Now is come salvation, and strength,
and the kingdom of our God, and the
power of his Christ: for the accuser of
our brethren is cast down, which accused
them before our God day and night. And
they overcame him [Satan] by the blood
of the Lamb, and by the word of their
testimony....*

Revelation 12:10-11

The tremendous power in the blood of Jesus is released by adding your testimony to it. Your confession, testimony, and declaration of the blood of Jesus will put the devil on the run. Satan, the accuser of the brethren, is constantly accusing us.

Romans 3:25 says, “...through faith in His blood.” The blood of Jesus, when mixed with faith, always overcomes the enemy.

Remember that the confession of your lips that has grown out of faith in your heart will absolutely defeat the adversary in every battle. If you will hold fast to your confession of faith in His blood and allow the Word of God to strengthen your faith, you will overcome.

WIN YOUR CASE BY PLEADING THE BLOOD

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

Isaiah 43:25,26

The word *plead* is a legal term that means “to present a case in a court of law.” It also means “a cry for mercy.” The voice of the accuser will tell you that you are guilty and condemned. He wants you to think that you will never pass the test and get God’s blessing.

The 1828 Webster’s Dictionary defines this word *pleadings* as “the mutual altercations between the plaintiff and defendant until the question is brought to issue, that is, to rest on a single point.” A pleader is “one that offers reasons for or against; one that attempts to maintain by argument.”

In prayer we use the Word of God to present our case to the Father in Jesus’ name. Jesus is the Word and He ever lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25) When you plead the blood, you are making a confession of the mercy provided by God through Jesus Christ. You are not stating your own merit or goodness but your confession of faith is in Jesus’ blood alone. You are confessing that His blood is your righteousness. You’re bringing your case to rest on a single point—Jesus’ blood alone has done everything.

When you stand in front of life’s difficulties, the voice of the accuser will tell you that you are guilty. He may ask, “How do you plead—guilty or not guilty?” Because you have an advocate with the Father, you can boldly say, “I plead the blood!”

...And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

CLEANSSED BY THE BLOOD

The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin and from all unrighteousness. Smith Wigglesworth said, “*There is not one thing in me the blood does not cleanse.*” The confession of faith in the blood produces a consciousness of righteousness. As we meditate on the blood of Jesus, it should awaken in us the glorious revelation that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin and all unrighteousness. The blood of Jesus develops in us the same disposition that was in Christ Himself. We are sanctified and made holy by the application of the blood of Jesus and by living in the consciousness of the blood.

There must be a continuous application of the blood to your life. When the enemy launches accusations against you, you have to offer a

rebuttal. Pleading the blood is synonymous with faith in the blood. You can bring your case to rest because faith in His blood is all that is necessary for your total victory.

I want to share this testimony from Grace Ryerson Roos in her book, *Spiritual Warfare*.

One time I came out against Satan in definite conflict. I knew I was fighting the powers of darkness in a certain matter and the way to victory was to deal with them, not the individual they were using. I walked up and down the room, witnessing to Satan aloud that Jesus had given me victory over him and all his works, and I resisted him here and now. Suddenly the Holy Spirit rose within me and spoke through my lips, “I chastise you, Satan, with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ!” Immediately I felt the opposing wall of darkness begin to recede. Seizing my advantage, I repeated the statement exactly as the spirit Himself had worded it. Again, I felt the “give”

in the opposition. I continued to fight the unseen adversary until I knew he had fled and I had overcome him with the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony.

CONFESSION OF THE BLOOD

This is a powerful confession that we have used for many years from Grace Ryerson Roos on the blood of Jesus.

The blood of Jesus purges me of every defilement of the enemy. The blood of Jesus keeps and guards my mind day and night. The blood of Jesus prevents deception and aborts every attempt of the enemy to deceive me. The blood of Jesus is my divine covering and protection against all the fiery darts of the evil one. Yea, the blood of Jesus is alive! So full of life and grace it perfects that which concerneth me—reconciling everything in me to the perfect will of God every day and in every way.

Your case rests on what Jesus Christ has done for you in His death, burial, and His resurrection.

He is alive! He has won the victory for you. So put God in remembrance of His promise. Get up every morning and say, *“I plead the blood of Jesus over my family, over my mind, over my thoughts, over my past, over my future, and over my conscience! I’ll not be guilty. I’ll not be condemned. I’ll not be accused. Devil, you are not having my children, you’re not having my marriage, and you’re not having my body. I plead the blood! I have won this case!”*

EXERCISE FAITH IN THE BLOOD

Through faith in the blood of Jesus you can stop the accuser. You can experience the glory of God and receive God’s best blessings. The blood of Jesus cleanses you from sin in all of its forms and manifestations (1 John 1:7). This cleansing is a continual cleansing. He will make you perfect in every good work. He will get you in the right place, at the right time, with the right people, doing the right thing, fulfilling the will of God. It is not by your own works or effort, but through faith in the blood.

*...By the blood (that sealed, ratified)
the everlasting agreement (covenant,*

testament), Strengthen (complete, perfect) and make you what you ought to be and equip you with everything good that you may carry out His will...

Hebrews 13:20, 21 (AMPC)

Three things happen when you begin to exercise faith in the blood. First, you are restored to communion and fellowship with God. You are escorted right into His presence. Second, you can receive the blessing of the Lord. Finally, you can stop the devil and every scheme and attack upon your life because dominion has been restored.

The last condition is exercising faith in the power of the blood. It is not as if we, through our faith, give the blood its effectiveness. No, the blood always retains its power and effectiveness, but our unbelief closes our hearts and hinders its operation. Faith is simply the removal of that hindrance, the setting open of our hearts, for the divine power by which the living Lord will bestow His blood.

Andrew Murray

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). You must feed on the Word over and over again. Jesus said in John 6:63, “...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” When you take the Word concerning the blood and meditate on it, your spirit literally begins to feed on it. The Word will get on the inside of you and you can make a bold confession of what the blood has done.

Several years ago, my wife Trina was facing what seemed like a hopeless situation. The Holy Spirit came to her aid and gave her these legal words to declare. They are words of victory—covenant words. You too can exercise faith in the blood of Jesus. Your testimony and confession will overcome the accusers.

***God is on my side,
For the blood has been applied.
Every need shall be supplied,
Nothing shall be denied.
So I enter into rest,
I know that I am blessed.
I have passed the test,
And I will get God's best!***

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:35,37

Nothing can separate you from the love of God. The measure of God's love for you is in the blood of Jesus. We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. Our faith is in His blood. God loved you so much that He produced a righteousness through the blood of Jesus that gives you right standing with Him.

You are free from a sense of guilt and shame, and through faith in the blood, you can come boldly right into the presence of God. Now, with confidence, you can boldly confess that this righteousness God has produced in you has made you more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus who loved you and gave Himself for you.

Mixing faith with the blood of Jesus is like mixing nitro with glycerin. There is always an

explosion of power. Our lips should be accustomed to confessing the power of the blood of Jesus and all that has been purchased for us in Him.

Make a daily list of scriptures that acknowledge who you are, what you have, and what you can do because you are in Christ. Every time you speak the Word, you are agreeing with God.

Say it now: "*Christ hath redeemed me from the curse of the law. I am redeemed.*" (Galatians 3:13) Talk to yourself. Say it to yourself quietly when you can and say it out loud when it's appropriate. Then repeat it over and over again. There is a fight to faith but it's a good fight because it's one you win. Say it until your whole being swings into harmony and into line with the Word of God. In other words, say it until your spirit starts lining up with the words you speak. You start seeing yourself healed and blessed. As you hold fast to your confession of faith, you will find that your faith will advance and be more effective.

***For a more in depth study on the blood of Jesus - please see our book, *The Bloodline of a Champion.*

4

Winning Strategic Battles

As a believer, you are not fighting FOR victory, you are actually fighting FROM a place of victory.

To understand where faith comes from and how it works, we can look at 1 Timothy 6:12: *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”*

It says to “fight the good fight of faith.” That means if you are in any other kind of fight, you’re really in the wrong fight. A lot of times the devil will get people fighting against each other. The only kind of fight we are called to is the fight of faith. In the fight of faith, you’re not fighting FOR victory. You’re really fighting FROM victory. Your victory comes from the reality of who you

are in Christ. You have been made alive, raised and seated together in Christ. The fight of faith begins in the victory of the triumph of Christ. Your acknowledgment and confession of faith determines if you're going to win.

CAPTURING KEY POSITIONS

I like history and enjoy reading and studying about different battles that have made an impact in our nation and the world. In the United States, the Civil War lasted from 1861-1865. One of the most strategic battles of the Civil War was at Gettysburg. This key battle ended up determining who won the war. The two generals in this battle were Robert E. Lee from the South (the Confederates) and George Meade from the North (the Union). There were over 50,000 casualties at Gettysburg.

The most strategic part of those three days at Gettysburg happened in an area of the battlefield called Little Round Top. Little Round Top was a hill that both the North and the South recognized as a key position. As military strategists, they knew that whoever captured and held that hill would win Gettysburg.

General Robert E. Lee was aware of this, but his men were tired. He decided to let them rest and begin the attack the next day. They could have walked right up the hill, but because they were battle weary, they lost the advantage. Being tired can cost you in a "faith battle" if you give in to it.

A small group of about 400 soldiers from the North, led by Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, immediately went and took Little Round Top. Chamberlain was instructed to hold Little Round Top at all costs. The officers knew that if they lost that hill, the South army would defeat and destroy the Northern armies. Chamberlain encouraged his small regiment saying, "Seldom in a generation have men been given the responsibility that will shape a nation."

A tremendous battle broke out and thousands of soldiers from the South came up that hill to drive them off. Chamberlain's group held the hill even though they were driven back three times. The Union soldiers were exhausted and out of ammunition. But instead of giving in, Chamberlain boldly ordered his men to fix their bayonets and charge. The Confederates were surprised as the

Union soldiers ran at them and they began to run and to surrender.

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain held Little Round Top and by winning that battle they won Gettysburg, and the Civil War. Chamberlain became a hero of the Union army for holding that hill. He was later promoted to general and then he became the governor of Maine.

We can learn many things from this historic battle that can be applied to winning battles of faith. 1 Timothy 6:12 says, “*Fight the good fight of faith...*” Remember, you’re not fighting FOR victory, but FROM a position of victory. The fight we fight is a good fight because it’s a fight that we win. If you follow God’s plan you can enter into a position of rest.

Remember these things as you wage a good warfare:

1. Attitude: This is a good fight and a good fight is one you win.
2. Position: Be in your place and hold it.
3. Don’t be distracted and go to sleep on your job. Be alert.
4. Follow instructions and obey commands.

5. Never give up.
6. Encourage others.
7. We are in a faith fight, not a people fight.
8. Hold fast to your confession of faith at all costs.
9. Be loaded with supernatural “ammunition” and don’t be afraid to charge your enemy.
10. Get reinforcements, pray in agreement, and stand together in unity.
11. Win the battle for God’s glory, not yours.

We are not in this battle by ourselves. There is strength in corporate unity. There are many examples of this in the Bible. Esther called the nation together to fast and pray for deliverance. The nation of Israel won an impossible battle after they confessed with one voice that the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. Fervent prayer was made by the church for Peter’s deliverance from jail. The place was shaken and God granted boldness when the church assembled after being threatened.

I want you to establish your confession as your Little Round Top. If you hold fast to your confession, it will determine not only this battle,

but the whole war. Imagine that little hill affecting America, our whole nation. In the same way, we want to look at your confession of faith as the hill you have to hold at all costs. That means if you hold fast to your confession, it will determine the outcome of the battle. The confession of faith can win more than a battle, it can also affect your destiny.

GOD'S GRIP IS GREATER

Some may say faith and confession sound like a struggle and it's true there is a fight to faith. I like to say it this way: Grace is God's grip on you and faith is your grip on God. God's grip on you is always greater than your grip on Him. God's grace is accessed by faith.

A few years ago, I was with my grandson Dylan, and we crossed a busy street. I said, "Dylan, take my hand." He got a grip and held my hand. He didn't realize that when he grabbed a hold of my hand, I also got a hold of his hand. I was not going to let him lose his grip on me.

In the same way, the moment your faith gets a grip on what Christ has done for you, God also gets a grip on you—and He's not turning loose of

you. If it feels like you're losing your grip, He'll hold onto you until you get a better grip. You must remember God's grip on you is always greater than your grip on Him. That's the grace of God and the mercy of God!

THE FAITH FIGHT

For we walk by faith and not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

When the Bible says to walk by faith and not by sight, it means you can't walk by faith and sight at the same time. Other translations say, "*We walk by faith and not by appearances.*" Everything is not always the way it appears to be. The devil can magnify appearances since he's the god of this world. He can magnify problems and bring all kinds of things against you so that your sight will cause you to waver in faith. You must choose to walk by faith and not by appearances.

Your confession during the fight of faith brings you into agreement with God. You can grow in your confession and become more of a professional in it. You can get better results than you have ever gotten before.

You may say, “I’m working on my faith game. I’m working on my confession.” You need to keep at it! You can’t get lazy in faith. Are you ready to fight? You need to always be ready to fight the good fight of faith. It’s the fight we win!

5

Get a Grip on Your Lip

Many Christians are weak, though sincere, because they lack a bold confession of who they are in Christ.

Every now and then I get to go to a rodeo and my favorite event is the bull riding. I like to see the biggest, meanest bulls because they seem to be ready to charge, buck and do anything to get that cowboy flying! Some bull riders hit the ground as soon as they come out of the chute. The best, most experienced ones have a strategy and even know the personality of the bull they are about to ride. They know some of his tendencies and if the bull jumps out to the left or to the right. Those professional riders get the rope and wrap it tightly around one hand. They have been working on their grip and hold on tightly to that rope.

Some Christians do this. On Sunday, they're like, "I'm on! I'm riding the bull!" But if they don't hold on to their confession, by Monday afternoon they hit the dirt, discouraged, defeated and ready to quit. Other Christians have learned how to get a grip on their lip. In other words, they maintain their confession of faith in God.

Inasmuch then as we have a great High Priest Who has [already] ascended and passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith in Him].

Hebrews 4:14 (AMPC)

Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (MSG)

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).

Hebrews 10:23

In these scriptures, Paul is saying when it comes to your salvation, your healing, your deliverance, and your victory, you are fixing to go for a ride! You need to hold fast. There is no such thing as unchallenged faith. The best thing about confession though, is that if you take hold, the Holy Spirit takes hold together with you. There may have been some things that have thrown you off in the last few months or the last few years. But that can change! If you will hold fast to your confession and not let go, those things won't throw you off this next year. Hold on tight and don't give up on it!

If you are going to hold fast to our confession of faith, it's not something you say just once. You must regularly bring your mouth and your words into agreement with what Jesus has done for you. If you want to be strong in faith, you need to make a continual confession of the Word. Right in the face of the devil, right in the face of failure, and

right in the face of all your feelings, your confession must remain constant. Confession must be made regardless of feelings! Even if you don't feel like it, you must hold fast to your confession of the Word of God.

OVERCOMING FEELINGS

For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

I was looking at this scripture one day and noticed that Jesus was touched with the feeling of our infirmities. I wondered, now how does that fit there? I was studying faith and the scripture mentioned feelings. Why? If you're going to walk by faith, your faith will have to supersede your feelings. Since Jesus was touched with our feelings, we can be confident that we can overcome any feeling.

What about your weaknesses or your struggles? It says Jesus was tempted in all points. Some may think Jesus could not have been tempted in

all points because He's God. However, He must have been tempted in all points or He could not be our high priest. That means you can't have any temptation He didn't also have. Temptation means pressure and feelings are coming against you. Feelings can be strong. He has been through every infirmity and every kind of weakness you could possibly have. He was tempted in all points and passed every test.

HOLD ON TIGHT

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Hebrews 4:14

*... Let's not let it slip through our fingers.
(MSG)*

Hold fast to your profession of faith in Him and don't let it slip through your fingers. Remember Jesus was tempted in feelings at every point. He's touched with the feelings of our infirmities. If He overcame, and you are in Him,

you can overcome.

I used to play football with the neighborhood kids in our backyard. Usually, it was my older brother and his big friends against me and my friends, who were small. My brother's team didn't even get in a huddle to call a play; they'd simply announce what they were going to do—and they did it! They were completely running over us, but we were determined. The next play, I caught the pass and took off running as hard as I could. However, I didn't notice the window air conditioner right in my path. I ran into it and it knocked me flat on my back. When I opened my eyes, everyone was standing over me to see if I was ok. I looked into their faces and said, "I still got the ball!" I had a tight grip on the football and wasn't letting go.

That is what we need to do when the devil, life or even our own mistakes knock us flat on our back. Your head might be spinning but hold on tight to your confession of faith in God. Don't let go! Don't let it slip through your fingers.

OVERCOME BY YOUR CONFESSION

I said to the Lord one time, "How come we still have all these feelings after our confession of

faith?" He said, "Remember, Jesus had the same feelings you're having and He overcame." Your confession of faith must be consistent even when you're feeling don't line up. If people ask you how you're feeling, you should say, "*I'm feeling the same way Jesus was feeling when He overcame this feeling.*"

My faith is in Him and in His Word. I do not live by feelings. The feelings will have to follow later. In other words, my confession of faith will literally overcome my feelings.

Dad Hagin said, "Even if it looks like you're failing, and even if failure is standing on all four corners, don't let go of your confession." You may feel like a failure but even in the face of failure, hold fast to your confession. No matter how you feel or how things look, your confession should remain the same: "*Jesus is my Lord, my Redeemer, my Righteousness, and my Provider! The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*" That's your continual confession.

Your confession will either bring you into agreement with what Jesus has done and what He says about you, or your confession will bring you into agreement with the enemy and your current

circumstances. You have a choice. Your confession can open the door to God or your confession can open the door to the attack of the enemy. Your confession of faith is of utmost importance!

No one is exempt from dealing with their feelings. Even ministers of the Gospel don't always feel like going to church, preaching or even like they are saved. Regardless of feelings, confess, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has anointed me to teach, to preach, and to prophesy. He has anointed me, so I yield to that anointing."* When you get up to minister or do whatever God has called you to do, that anointing will come upon you. It will even make you smarter. You will think things you couldn't think on your own. You might have prepared a sermon, but the Holy Spirit will give you fresh anointing, new thoughts, and new illustrations.

Once you understand the vital importance of your confession, instead of asking other believers how they're feeling, you will ask them, "What is your confession?" Voicing problems won't change anything. Your faith will grow and become strong in the atmosphere of your confession of the Word of God.

THE GREATER ONE IS IN ME

It is important and the Bible teaches us to have faith in God. Have you ever thought of having faith in the God that's in you? Have you ever considered having faith that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you? He's the greater One and is able to make you stand! This is how you overcome your feelings. You rise up on the inside and boldly declare who dwells in you as a born-again believer.

Your confession activates the work of the Holy Spirit. You bring yourself into agreement with the power of God by your words even when you don't feel like it.

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS YOU

God is working in you mightily through the person of the Holy Spirit. You may be feeling discouraged or defeated, but the Holy Spirit will get in the pit with you and pull you out. He's like a first responder. The Holy Spirit, your intercessor who represents Jesus, says, "If I brought Jesus out of the pit, I can surely bring you out." Confess this: "If the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in me, He can bring me out of any pit!"

One way we give the Holy Spirit a place to help us with our feelings is by praying in tongues. He takes hold together with us while we are praying in the Spirit. As you speak in tongues, the Holy Spirit helps you pray beyond your intellect. He takes hold together with us with words that cannot be uttered with articulate speech. That's the power of yielding to the Holy Ghost. He will help you to overcome any feeling.

JESUS' VICTORY IS YOURS

Years ago I heard a preacher say, "God's strongest man was Samson and he fell into sin. God's wisest man was Solomon and he fell into sin. God's best man was David and he fell into sin." This preacher left out one major point—God's new man, Christ. He succeeded and He's living on the inside of you.

You're not following the pattern of the strongest, wisest, or even the best man. You're following the pattern of the new man. Put on the new man. Others may have failed, but the new man passed every test. Your confession of who you are in Christ connects you to Jesus. This is how you put on the new man—you confess who you

are in Christ. This confession will bring you out, put you over, and enforce your victory no matter what your currently feelings.

While confessing the Word during contrary circumstances, you might think, "I can't say that because I don't want to lie." I have some good news for you: God can't lie.

For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning. Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].

Hebrews 4:15-16 (AMPC)

As your High Priest, Jesus has triumphed over all things. The moment you confess faith in Him,

the enemy cannot hold anything over you. Hold fast to your confession because it will defeat the devil and bring victory. God watches His Word to perform it.

Charles Wesley wrote these powerful words in his hymn, *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing: He breaks the power of cancelled sin. He sets the prisoner free. His blood can make the foulest clean. His blood avails for me. Amen!*

6

Passing the Faith Test

The confession of your lips that has grown out of faith in your heart will absolutely defeat the adversary in every combat.

Examine yourselves, as to whether you are in faith. Test yourselves.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)

We have a swimming pool at our house, and I make sure all my grand kids know how to swim. One day my grandson Gavin came running up to me and told me he learned to swim. He was so excited and said, “I can swim! Poppy, I can swim!” What he didn’t realize was that I had been watching him and I knew he couldn’t swim. He could swim in the shallow end, but anyone can swim when they can touch the bottom of the pool. Caleb, my son-in-law, was very positive and supportive but positive thinking doesn’t help you if you are drowning. We were standing by the deep

end of the pool, and I tossed Gavin in the water for a quick swimming test. I was standing next to Caleb and we could see Gavin had started sinking. He was making swimming motions, but he was still sinking. I told Caleb, “If I were you, I’d jump in and save him.” He immediately jumped in the pool and pulled Gavin out. When they got out of the water, I told them Gavin needed to go back for some more lessons. Gavin came back after more lessons and practice, and swam all over, including in the deep end.

In church, I find some people who are making swimming motions, but they are sinking. They hear the message and say, “Oh, I already know about that. I hope this helps everyone else here because I already know this. I can swim.” But when they get in a difficult situation or the storms of life come, they begin to sink. It is critical to understand the importance of faith and confession. You start speaking the Word, walking by faith, and before you know it, you won’t be just making faith motions—your faith will be getting results.

In other words, when you lay hold on this confession, “He is faithful that promised,”

(Hebrews 10:23) your confession will produce your victory. You won’t just be acting like you have faith. You will be able to swim in the deep end, using your faith and gaining the victory even in the most challenging situations of life.

FAITH IS INSTRUMENT RATED

How would you feel if the pilot on your next flight came on the intercom and said, “Folks, today I’m not going to look at my instruments or listen to the air traffic controller. I’m going to fly by my feelings. I think I can land us at our destination.” You would want to get off that flight immediately! Did you know that without being instrument rated a pilot can only fly for 90 seconds without visual reference? That means if he gets in the fog or clouds he becomes disoriented. He may feel like he’s going the right direction when actually he is totally off course. To be instrument rated means that you focus on your instruments instead of what you are feeling or perceiving naturally.

A good pilot trusts his instruments to give him the true status of his altitude, position, airspeed, etc. This is how Christians should make decisions. We are to live by faith—looking into the Word of

God and fixing our eyes on Jesus. As a believer, you can learn not to trust your feelings, but to acknowledge and follow the Spirit of God.

ABRAHAM'S FAITH

(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Romans 4:17, 18

Against all odds, when it looked hopeless, Abraham believed the promise and expected God to fulfill it. He took God at his word, and as a result he became the father of many nations. God's declaration over him came to pass: "Your descendants will be so many that they will be impossible to count!" In spite of being nearly one hundred years old when the promise of having a son was made, his faith was so strong that it could not be

undermined by the fact that he and Sarah were incapable of conceiving a child.

Romans 4:18-19 (TPT)

Abraham is called the father of faith and his example is one of passing many tests of faith. He eventually learned to rely on God's promise instead of his own efforts. He believed God's promise was to make him the father of a nation.

Abraham stopped looking at his hopeless situation and turned his expectation to God alone. His belief, his expectation and then his praise brought the promise to pass.

Notice how Abraham followed God's example of calling things that are not as though they are.

God..who calls into being what does not exist.

Romans 4:17 (Moffat)

I have made you the father of many nations....Who gives life to the dead and speaks of the nonexistent things that [He has foretold and promised] as if they [already] existed.

(AMPC)

Abraham had no children when God called him the father of many nations, but he began to say the same thing as God. He acted as if it was already done by giving glory to God. The word *consider* means to observe fully. He considered the impossibility and then he considered it not. He stopped looking at his inability to produce a child and began to consider God's ability and gave Him praise. Remember, the phrase "giving thanks" comes from the same Greek word as confession. He was confessing he was a father when he had no children at all.

And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Romans 4:20

No unbelief or distrust made him waver (doubtingly question) concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God.

(AMPC)

Praise is a detergent that will wash doubt out. Your praise is your confession and a key element to receiving all the promises of God.

CONSIDER JESUS

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 3:1

Dad Hagin tells this story of when he was in a lot of pain one day and that scripture in Romans came to him. Abraham considered not his own body. When you're in pain, it's hard to consider not because that pain can be so loud. Dad Hagin said, "Lord, how am I supposed to consider not my body while it's screaming right now? I'm in pain. What am I supposed to do?" The Lord told Dad Hagin, "I'm not just telling you not to consider something. I'm telling you to consider Jesus—the Apostle and High Priest," (Hebrews 3:1). In other words, turn your eyes to Jesus. Your focus is not on the problem, but your focus is on Jesus.

My confession comes out of that consideration, "Jesus is my Lord, my Healer, and my Redeemer."

The word *consider* literally means “to study.” Turn your eyes to Jesus. Consider Him. Study who He is and what He’s done for you. It’s not just that you’re NOT considering your problem, you’re considering Jesus. You can boldly say, “He is my Redeemer, my Shepherd, my Healer, and my Provider.” Study and worship Him! This is how you overcome any feeling.

RECURRENT FAITH TRAINING

We have a ministry jet that enables us to fly anywhere in the United States to minister. The pilots who fly this jet have not only trained and passed their initial tests but have to take recurrent training in order to be qualified to fly. Training enhances their aviation knowledge and skills, and they learn new regulations and procedures. Recurrent training is very expensive but it is to our advantage to invest in our pilots so they can continue to fly our jet. As important as this is, how much more critical is it for us to re-examine our faith?

James 1:21-22 says, “...*receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving*

your own selves.” When your faith is tested, will it pass the test? When you are a doer of the Word, you are not just letting it go in one ear and out the other.

Second Corinthians 13:5 says we have to examine ourselves and see if we are in faith. The Message translation says, “*Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith....Give yourselves regular checkups....Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.*” When you pass the test, God rewards your diligence. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

THE WATERING PROCESS

The way a person receives the Word of God is another determining factor to faith that gets results. This is an important concept to grasp if we are going to understand faith and confession. Your faith cannot take you further than your knowledge of the Word of God. Some people think they have faith but really they are settling for what is called “mental assent.” Mental assent sounds like faith, but it won’t produce results. Some people will say, “Oh yeah I know all about that topic!” They may know all the right faith answers and may be

making swimming motions, but when they end up in the deep end, they sink. How you listen to the Word, receive it, and respond to it determines whether you overcome or not.

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:6

The first time you hear the Word is the planting. The second, third, fourth, and hundredth time you hear the Word is the watering process. Then God gives the increase. No matter how good the seed, no matter how good the ground, without the watering process there will be no results. Repetition in God's Word is the watering process. Some people never get increase because they reject the watering process.

You must be willing to consistently re-examine a subject. Receive the Word like it's the first time you're hearing it, even if it's the hundredth time you are hearing the same message. When you refuse to listen to the Word because you already know the subject, you are not receiving the Word appropriately. Feed your faith on the Word of God. Your faith can produce greater results in you than you have ever known!

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:2-4

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

(MSG)

Get ready to pass another faith test and go to a new level. Prepare and count it all joy because you are going to another level of fruitfulness and productivity. God will be able to use you and you will fulfill His calling. Jesus passed the test when He was tempted by the devil in Luke 4. When it was all finished, He got the Father's stamp of approval and went forward in the fullness of the Spirit.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. Confession builds the road over which faith carries its mighty cargo.
2. A spiritual law few recognize is that our confessions rule us.
3. Faith will never rise above the level of your confession.
4. God can be no bigger in you than you confess Him to be.
5. Many Christians are weak, though sincere, because they lack a bold confession of who they are in Christ.
6. The confession of your lips that has grown out of faith in your heart will absolutely defeat the adversary in every battle.
7. The Word will heal you if you will continually confess it.
8. Nothing will establish and build your faith as quickly as confession.
9. Your success and usefulness in this world is measured by your confession and the tenacity with which you hold fast to that confession.

7

The Voice of Faith

Your faith must move your mouth before it moves your mountain.

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mark 11:22-23

In this scripture the word *verily* means, “I’m telling you the truth.” Jesus said that before He explained how the God-kind of faith works. I’m

so glad the next thing Jesus said was “whosoever.” Faith will work for anyone! Regardless of your situation, your faith can and will move your mountains.

The last word emphasized in Mark 11:23 is whatsoever. Whosoever shall have whatsoever. In other words, faith will work for anyone and will work on anything. When I found out about this, I started confessing the Word rather than sitting around hoping things worked out. I started charting my course. If faith will work on a mountain, it will work on anything. Sometimes all you need to do is make a small adjustment in what your saying. Then your faith will work and you will open the door to the supernatural.

CHECK WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN SAYING

In Mark 11:23 Jesus said, “*whosoever...shall have whatsoever he saith.*” Notice He didn’t say, He can have whatsoever. Rather Jesus said, “He shall have....” If you are not happy with what you have in life, you’d better check out what you have been saying. Sometimes it’s good to get a faith partner and hold each other accountable for what you are saying.

The God-kind of faith will work on more than one thing at a time. That means you can confess more than one thing at a time. Realize that God can do many things at the same time, and the lights in heaven will not even blink from a power overload! God didn’t tell you to get your shovel out and move the mountain. He said, “Speak to it.” You don’t have to struggle, have a nervous breakdown or a heart attack but just speak to your mountain!

MOTIVATE YOUR FAITH

You must be motivated to move your mountain. The problem is, when you let a mountain stay there very long, it will attract others. Before long you’ll have a whole mountain range to deal with. People get personal about their mountains by saying, “My mountain or my situation.” This means they’ve already drawn it on the map of their life, and they plan on it staying there.

If you knew what was on the other side of your mountain, you would move it. You’ve been letting that thing stay there for years. The reason that mountain is still there is because the devil is trying to keep you from getting something God has prepared for you.

YOU HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING

Genesis 1 says that the Spirit of God moved on the face of the deep, but nothing happened until God said something. The Holy Spirit will move upon you, but nothing is going to change until you say something. You must function with the God-kind of faith. The God-kind of faith will work for anyone and it will work on anything.

The Bible says we are created in the image of God. In Genesis 1, God said and then He saw. In other words, sound came before sight. The world was framed by the Words spoken from God. In the same way, you can frame your world by the words you speak. Many people are wanting a change of scenery but there must be a change of sound first.

God wants to do things through you, so take the limits off and let God be God. Jesus didn't say that you would have what others said about you, He said that you have what you say. When you were growing up, someone may have called you stupid. Jesus didn't say you're going to have what they said, He said you'd have what you say.

IMPACT THE SEEN AND THE UNSEEN

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Luke 17:5-6

...for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 17:20

This was not a “deity trick” that works for Jesus alone. Faith will work for whosoever and it will work on whatsoever. Jesus used a mountain in this scripture to reference our authority over demons and evil spirits. When you speak, your words have an impact not only on the seen but also on the unseen. There are some things I like to say in private just to make sure they have an impact not only on me but also upon the unseen demonic powers.

When I went to Bible college, I used to say certain things about the blessing of the Lord upon my life and future. Friends would come up to me and say, “You’d better not say that, because the devil will hear you!” I would answer, “I said it for his benefit! I want to make sure he heard me say it.”

MAINTAIN A BOLD CONFESSION

Your individuality is tied up not only in your fingerprints, but also in your voiceprint. Your voiceprint actually has a greater definition of your identity than your fingerprint. No other voiceprint is exactly like yours. Your voice is your address in the spirit realm. When you speak words of faith, God responds directly to your address. Based upon the authority that He has delegated to you, His power is released when He hears your voice.

I like what the Roman centurion said in Matthew 8. Jesus told him, “I’ll come to your house and heal your servant.” The centurion replied, “No, you don’t need to come to my house. Speak the Word only, and my servant shall be healed.”

Jesus was amazed! The Bible actually says that He marveled. That’s pretty impressive to make

Jesus marvel. Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “*I have not found such great faith in all of Israel.*” It was almost like He was looking for it. I believe that while Jesus was teaching, He was looking around, thinking, “Let me see if I can find any faith here.” I believe Jesus is still looking for faith today and looking for opportunities where He can show Himself strong.

8

Four Areas of Confession

If you are not impressed with who you are in Christ, you just haven't seen Him lately. You look a whole lot better in Christ than you do outside of Him.

For your faith to be effective and strong, there are four major areas we should cover in your confession. The more you confess or acknowledge out loud what the Bible says about you in these areas, the greater freedom you will experience. Jesus said if we continue in His Word, we will be His disciples. Then, we will know the Truth and that Truth will make us free (John 8:31,32).

WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

The first area of confession is what God has done for us in the death, burial and resurrection

of Christ. Having a clear revelation of what happened from the cross to the throne will radically change your life. Jesus, the Son of God, came as our substitute. He identified with mankind. Identification means to treat as one and the same. Because Jesus died for us, our the old sinful nature died in Him. When He was buried, we were buried and when He was declared righteous we were made His righteousness. We now share His resurrection and seating in heavenly places.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

YOUR CONFESSION:

Christ took me to the cross with Him. I have been crucified with Him. My old life is gone. I am

crucified, and the life I am living now is no longer mine, but is Christ living in me. God made Jesus to be sin for me so I now share His righteousness. I am the righteousness of God in Christ.

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

The second area of confession is who we are and what we have now in Christ. Jesus is called the head of the body of Christ. Just as your head and your body function together and share the same identity and experience, we are in union with Christ. In these scriptures, notice the prepositions or connecting words that show our relationship with Christ such as: for, in, with, through, and by. You look a whole lot better in Christ than you do outside Him! There are at least 30 key scriptures that will bring you into the consciousness of who you are in Christ.

One of my favorite “In Christ” scriptures is 2 Corinthians 2:14, “*Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*” The word *triumph* means “the celebration of winning after the fight is over.” When you confess your triumph in Christ, you win! Here are three good In Christ scriptures:

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:5-6

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

1 Corinthians 1:30

YOUR CONFESSION:

I am a new creation in Christ. My old life is gone and everything is new. I have been raised up from death with Christ and seated in heavenly places in Him. Because I am in Christ, I share His wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

WHAT JESUS IS DOING FOR YOU NOW

The third area of confession is what Jesus is doing for you now at the right hand of God. When He was raised from the dead, Christ entered His ministry as Lord and as your great intercessor at the right hand of God.

But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Hebrews 10:12-14

Jesus has not retired in Heaven, but His work of intercession is effective and working powerfully. His prayer brings to you continual salvation, which literally means healing, deliverance, soundness, preservation and provision.

Hebrews 3:1 calls Jesus Christ the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. When you confess Jesus on the earth, He will confess you before the angels of God (Luke 12:8). Jesus, our advocate at the throne of grace, needs you to confess His blood, your faith in the Word of God and the

Holy Spirit's indwelling power. As dedicated as He was to fulfill His work in redemption, Jesus is also dedicated to intercede for you. He intercedes for you through the person of the Holy Spirit. He intercedes for your weaknesses, infirmities, and limitations. Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, takes hold in your weakness, and He makes intercession for you. Here are some scriptures for you to confess:

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Romans 8:34

YOUR CONFESSION:

Jesus is continually praying for me. He is able to save, heal, deliver, restore and preserve me. He does not condemn me, but He is for me and is in Heaven praying for me.

THE WORD AND HOLY SPIRIT WORKING IN YOU

The fourth major area of your confession is what God, through the Word and by the indwelling Holy Spirit, can do in you and through you. Have faith in the God who lives in you! For example, you can make Romans 8:11 personal and say it like this: *“The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells inside of me and He quickens and gives life to my mortal body.”* What does that do? It brings you into a consciousness of the Holy Spirit working in you. It brings you into the reality that the Spirit of God, the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, is working in you. No matter how you are feeling, the mess you find yourself in, or the mountain standing in front of you, the Greater One in you is giving you words to speak. You can confess, “I can do all things through Christ! Jesus is praying for me. There shall be a performance of God’s Word to me because He is the power to fulfill it. God is watching His Word to perform it.”

THE CONFESSIONS OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ was constantly confessing His identity and His destiny. If Jesus had to continually confess these things about Himself, we will also have to have do the same thing. He said:

- I AM the Bread of Life—John 6:48
- I AM the Light of the World—John 8:12; 9:5
- I AM the Door—John 10:1
- I AM the Good Shepherd—John 10:11
- I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life — John 14:6
- I AM the Vine—John 15:1
- I AM come to send fire on the earth—Luke 12:49
- I AM the Resurrection and the Life—John 11:25
- I AM come that you might have Life—John 10:10
- My Father is greater than all—John 10:29
- The Father is in me and I AM in Him—John 10:38
- The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel

to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)

Jesus was constantly confessing what the Spirit enabled Him to do. We need to agree with and speak the same words as Jesus. You must confess what the Word says about you and what God's Spirit can do through you. Jesus found His identity, the will of God, and His divine destiny in Isaiah 61. John the Baptist found himself in Isaiah 40. When they found themselves in the Word of God, they brought their mouths into agreement with what the Word said. The Holy Spirit confirmed and came upon them to fulfill it. You can find yourself in the Word of God just like they did. Once you find your identity in the Word, you can say, "That's talking about me—that's who I am!"

These are some powerful scriptures to speak over yourself:

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

YOUR CONFESSION:

God has begun a good work in me. He is working in me, giving me the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. Through Jesus' blood, God is working in me, making me perfect and well pleasing to God.

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About the Authors

Mark and Trina Hankins travel nationally and internationally preaching the Word of God with the power of the Holy Spirit. Their message centers on the spirit of faith, who the believer is in Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

After over forty years of pastoral and traveling ministry, Mark and Trina are now ministering full-time in campmeetings, leadership conferences, and church services around the world and across the United States. Their son, Aaron, and his wife Errin Cody, are now the pastors of Christian Worship Center in Alexandria, Louisiana. Their daughter, Alicia Moran, and her husband Caleb, live in Lafayette, Louisiana. Mark and Trina have eight grandchildren.

Mark and Trina have written several books. For more information on Mark Hankins Ministries, log on to the website, www.markhankins.org.

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My wife's parents, Rev. William and Ginger Behrman.

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Publications

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A comprehensive study of scriptures in over 120 different translations on topics such as: Redemption, Faith, Finances, Prayer and many more.

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Many Christians talk about what they are trying to be and what they are going to be. This book is about who you are NOW as believers in Christ.

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If you only knew what happens in the Spirit when you rejoice, you would rejoice everyday. Joy is one of the great secrets of faith. This book will show you the importance of the joy of the Lord in a believer's life.

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Learn how God identified us with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and seating in Heaven. The same identical life, victory, joy, and blessings that are In Christ are now in you. This is the glory and the mystery of Christianity – the power of the believer's identification with Christ.

REVOLUTIONARY REVELATION

This book provides excellent insight on how the spirit of wisdom and revelation is mandatory for believers to access their call, inheritance, and authority in Christ.

**FAITH OPENS THE DOOR TO THE
SUPERNATURAL**

In this book you will learn how believing and speaking open the door to the supernatural.

THE NEW

The power of the cross brings old things to an end. God has a new plan for your life. It is a dawning of a new day! Get ready for the NEW!

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When the Holy Spirit is working on our case we have a tremendous advantage. He has never lost a case if he can get his client to listen to him. The Holy Spirit has a reputation for working with some real losers and making them champions.

THE GLORY

Are you ready for a study on the glory of God? The glory of God in its simplest form is the goodness of God. It is His manifest presence and is the one thing that satisfies the human soul.

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The Spirit of Faith is necessary to do the will of God and fulfill your divine destiny. Believing AND speaking are necessary ingredients in the spirit of faith. If you ONLY knew what was on the other side of your mountain, you would move it!

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A collection of quotes by Mark and Trina from the past 50 years of ministry. The quotes are separated by topics such as: faith, in Christ, the blood of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, finances, honor, confession, righteousness and more.

IN CHRIST: THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

This book contains practical teaching on your identification in Christ. It lists over 30 key, life-changing scriptures with several translations added to make it easy for you to meditate and strengthen your faith. You must have a change of identity to reach your divine destiny.

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In this book you will find powerful and effective prayer strategies and testimonies in the Word of God. They will help you overcome and see victory in your family.