
CONFESSION

Nehemiah 9



All the Israelites came before the
Lord in sackcloth and earth on
their heads.

OUTLINE



*1. Confession is personal,
not private*



*2. Confession is formation,
not transaction*



*3. Confession leads to repentance,
not remorse*

Confession doesn't stand alone. It is often part of prayer and worship.



CORPORATE WORSHIP

Chapter 8



Reading

Chapter 9



Confession

Chapter 10



Covenant

OUTLINE



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Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the **people of Israel were assembled** with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. ² And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. ³ And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD **their** God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the LORD **their** God.

⁷ You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name **Abraham**.

⁹ “And you saw the affliction of **our fathers in Egypt** and heard their cry at the Red Sea,

¹² By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night to light for them the way in which they should go.



This was a reminder to
Israel on how far they
have come as a nation.

This was personal.



The only reason why
the Israelites could
still gather as a nation,
was because God did
not forsake them.



God's mercy: the Israelites **stayed** and **remained being** Israelites, and not Canaanites or Babylonians or Persians.

Our response: take time to trace
God's mercies in our lives.

OUTLINE



*1. Confession is personal,
not private*

There is a **MASSIVE**
difference between
personal and private.

When confession is
personal, we take
ownership.

When confession is private,
we can conceal the bad, the
ugly.

OUTLINE



2. Confession is formation, not transaction



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not private*



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not remorse*

Confession forms and shapes us as our
view of God **deepens and widens.**

6 “You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

PATTERN OF CONFESSION

01

Declaring

We declare who God is!

PATTERN OF CONFESSION

01

Declaring

We declare who God is!

02

Praise God

We praise God for
what He has done!

⁸ You found his heart faithful
before you, and made with him the
covenant to give to his
offspring the land of the
Canaanite, the Hittite, the
Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite,
and the Girgashite. **And you have
kept your promise, for you are
righteous.**

Wait a minute...where got
time?

Let's take time to build our
confession.

PATTERN OF CONFESSION

01

Declaring

We declare who God is!

02

Praise God

We praise God for
what He has done!

03

Confess sin

Place God's
overwhelming grace
next to our sin

Confession places God's
overwhelming grace next to our sin.

¹⁷ They **refused to obey** and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt.

But **you are a God ready to forgive**, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them

¹⁸ Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ and **had committed great blasphemies,** ¹⁹ you in your great mercies **did not forsake them** in the wilderness.

This repetition goes on
another 4 times!

The weight of sin, of guilt is slowly
being taken off their shoulders.

The character of God and the
goodness of God is filling the void in
our hearts.

We are being formed, corrected
and transformed.

Most importantly, we are being
forgiven.

OUTLINE



2. Confession is formation, not transaction



*1. Confession is personal,
not private*



*3. Confession leads to repentance,
not remorse*

How can we tell whether our
confession is transactional or not?

‘Tell me what you cannot give up and I’ll
tell you what you worship.’

OUTLINE



3. Confession leads to repentance, not remorse



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³⁷ And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, **and we are in great distress.**

38 “**Because of all this** we make
a firm covenant in writing; on the
sealed document are the names
of^[f] our princes, our Levites, and
our priests.

Confession cannot **end** with remorse.

Jacob
was a cheater



David
had an affair



Peter
had a temper

Noah
got drunk



Jonah

ran from God



Moses

stuttered



Paul

was a murderer



Zaccheus

was short

‘If you know you are Beloved of God, you can live with an enormous amount of success and an enormous amount of failure without losing your identity, because your identity is that you are the Beloved.’

—*Henri Nouwen*

God stood at the other side of their
confession with open arms, leading
them towards His arms through
repentance.

The difference between confession to
God and confession in this world is
WHO stands at the other side of our
confession.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

It is that hope, that promise made by
the greatest Promise Keeper, that
leads us towards repentance.

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

It is the Holy Spirit that enables us,
strengthens us and guides us in our
repentance.

At the other side of our confession stands
Jesus, with His arms wide open.