

Rivers of Living Water

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

God will accept no substitute for confession and He instantly detects a counterfeit. Have you ever thought that God would accept from you a larger gift of money, greater activity in service or a longer prayer in lieu of a confession of sin? Or are you self-deceived in thinking that regret because of suffering for the punishment of sin, or a forced acknowledgment of some offence with no heart sorrow for the sin itself is confession? Sometimes a supposed confession is a confession of the other fellow's sin and a justification of oneself. Oftentimes a confession is but a partial one. Some top sin is mentioned while the root sin is altogether unconfessed.

In a small meeting of Christian women I once gave the opportunity for confession of sin. A Bible woman quickly spoke, evidently to set a good example to others. She confessed to laziness. I knew that this was not the root sin that needed to be confessed, because she had enjoyed doing it altogether too much. I prayed that night that God would convict her of hypocrisy and lead her to make a true confession. The next day out of a truly contrite heart she confessed that she hated the pastor's wife and had not spoken to her for eight years.