

The Prerequisite to Fullness: Cleansing

Some sins need to be confessed only to God because against Him only have we sinned (Ps. 51:4). Other sins need to be confessed to individuals against whom we have sinned (Jas. 5:16), and again a public confession of sin is sometimes necessary when the whole company of God's people have been wronged (Josh. 7: 19-25).

The Measure of Cleansing

The cleansing must be from all defilement of both flesh and spirit. Separation from every defiling thing is God's requirement.

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Cor. 7:1).

God demands a cleansing that reaches from the innermost desire to the outermost deed; that goes from the core to the circumference of our lives. He asks us to take His conception of sin which regards a lustful look as truly sin as a lustful act; which sees a murderer in the one in whose heart there is hatred as truly as in the one in whose hand there is a blood-stained dagger.

Do you resemble the Pharisees of old who were like whited sepulchres, which appeared beautiful outwardly, but within were full of