

PRAY HARD PRAYERS

Pray Hard Prayers: The Prayer of Confession – Luke 18:9-14

1. Read Luke 18:9-14. This weekend we discussed the importance of having the right heart and attitude when approaching God or confessing sin. How does this passage reveal that there is a “right way and a wrong way to speak to God or confess sin?” If you’re being honest, which of these prayers do you identify with the most?
2. Read Proverbs 24:16. What do you think it means that the righteous can fall seven times and still rise again? In light of 1 John 1:9, why is it important to have a mindset that confession of sin is a lifelong practice and not a one-time act?
3. During the weekend message, it was stated, “Confession and blame don’t mix in the mixing bowl of prayer and incense.” Evaluate Adam and Eve’s blame-shifting, Cain’s refusal to take ownership of his sin and then evaluate your own life when you have been tempted to mix confession with blame or refuse to take ownership. Why can’t these two things mix?
4. This weekend we discussed the meaning of the word confession in the Bible: “to agree with God, and release something under tension”. How can we put this into practice when the Holy Spirit comes to us to convince us to release our confession to God and agree with Him? Have you experienced this tension? What did you do?
5. There are many things that confession of sin IS NOT, and we discussed some of them this weekend. As a group, recount those we discussed, and come up with any new ones the Lord reveals to you. Why is it important to note that confession of sin must also lead to forsaking it? What can happen if we confess but don’t forsake it?
6. How does reading someone else’s public confession (like King David in Psalm 32, 51) or Philip Yancy impact you? Is there something in your life you need to confess before God, and you can draw courage and inspiration from them to do it? If you are in the position of discovering someone else’s sin through confession, how would you want to be treated if you were them?

