

## **New Testament Prayer**

*'Prayer changes the believer'*

- I.** Why does the Father ask us to confess our sins? (1 Jn. 1:9).
  1. Terms in the verse: sins, faithfulness, righteous, forgive, cleanse—ceremonially clean, and unrighteousness.
  2. God's holiness is outraged by sin (Rom. 1:18).
    - 1) This grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30).
    - 2) The Christian then must be reconciled to God: end hostility towards God.
      - i. God is always reconciled to the Christian; this is a result of your position in Christ (2 Cor. 5:19; Eph. 2:14-16).
      - ii. The Christian by determining to sin is hostile, not reconciled to God (Rom. 8:7; Jam. 4:4).
- II.** The sin nature contrasted to an act of sin.
  1. The nature is a propensity to sin (1 Jn. 1:8; Eph. 2:3; Rom. 1:18, 32; Rom. 6:23; Ps. 51:5).
  2. Sin acts (1 Jn. 1:9-10).
- III.** What is sin?
  1. Sin is sin because God calls it sin, since He makes the rules.
  2. Sin is against God (Ps. 51:4 *cf.* 1 Cor. 8:12).
  3. Sin is acting as though God has no restraints, no standards, no limits (1 Jn. 3:4). *This means: 1). that the definition of sin will change when God changes the rules; sin is different in different dispensations, e.g., drunkenness; 2). That sin is against God's limits, against Him.*
  4. Sin is action, not thought (1 Cor. 6:18).
  5. All sin must be paid for to please the Father (Heb. 9:22).
- IV.** The blood of Jesus Christ paid for and currently satisfies the Father's holiness (Heb. 10:10).
  1. Christ's blood is incorruptible (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
  2. Jesus' blood on the cross was the one-time sacrifice for all sin (Heb. 10:10-12).
  3. Christ, by His very own blood, entered into the presence of God, in the realm of His humanity (Heb. 9:11-14, 24).
- V.** Christ sprinkled His blood on Himself in order to enter into heaven (Heb. 9:13-14; Rom. 3:25).