

O LORD God — Hear My Confession

O Lord God Almighty — have mercy on me. I bow before You in shame and agony of heart. You alone are my only hope. I hold up these empty hands to You.

I ask for Your humbling and deep conviction. Reveal to me my true condition — all those sinful and depraved motivations — that lie behind my thoughts, words and actions. Do not allow me to continue as I am. Only You know my hidden sins that I excuse and rationalize away. Deal harshly with me that I may make a true confession before You. Pierce my heart in Your lovingkindness and reveal my depravity in the light of Your truth.

I bow in shame before You, Heavenly Father, before You, Lord Jesus, and before You, Blessed Holy Spirit of Truth. Please come and rescue me. Help me to confess and pray.

You are the One True Living God.

I bow to confess before You that I have sinned against Your very Person. I have recognized Your existence and greatness in many flowery words — words only. Rarely have I given You Your rightful place as the One True and Living God. In practice I have taken Your place. And, my thoughts and actions testify loudly to how idolatrous I have been in placing myself, and money, and entertainment, and food, and people, and things — many sinful things — before You. Please drag it all out into the open and humble me, so I may be through forever with that way of life. I want You, only You, to have first place in my life — all of my life.

You are the Sovereign God with Plans of Lovingkindness.

In shame I acknowledge before You how I have chafed in the life You have given me. I have whined like the spoiled child I am, coveted what was not mine, and allow irritation and bitterness to consume me. I confess, as I look back in my life, how perfect and fulfilling Your plan for my life has been. But even at this moment I still question why, when I appear to be working so hard for you, that You treat me so shabbily. I cry out for mercy. Open my blind eyes, shine Your truth into my stubborn, critical, and faultfinding way of life. Come to me O God — break my willful and unthankful heart.

You are Holy and Good — and All You Do is Goodness.

How different You are from me. What an infinite gulf exists between Your holy goodness and my “good works.” I confess before You that even in my “better moments” my thoughts and actions are defiled by hidden agendas of control, pride, fear, self-protection and the desire to be praised. How many times I have stolen your glory. I confess how I have embellished the truth, over and over again, to protect myself from criticism and to gain attention and prestige. My righteous acts are but filthy rags. Only You know the depths of my self-deception. I cry out for help.

What can I say about my sin, my unholiness, my sensuality, my anger, my subtle planning to cheat, to lie, to manipulate, to hurt, to gain revenge, to nurse my grudges, to transfer blame to others, to gain advantage, to use unsuspecting friends and enemies for my own sinful advantage? My jealousy, envy, bigotry, fear and anger overwhelm me. The heavy chains of my sin press me into the dust. Even as I confess before You I think of some easy way out — some way of still keeping my indulgent, self-centered, and sensual life of pride and self-righteousness intact. Have mercy upon me. Do what I cannot do. Convict and humble me. Do what You have to do to bring me into a true and thorough confession, repentance, and renunciation of my sin. I have opened the door to the evil one through my sin — come and rescue me from him — and from myself.

You are the God of Unlimited Power — Yet Gentle and Humble.

I confess before You my Lord, of how often I have arrogantly presumed on your loving and gentle character. In moments of temptation and pressure, when I indulged in rationalizing my choice to sin — and there were many of them — I secretly told myself I got away with it before and I'll take a chance again. Please help me to see clearly the wicked nature of my sin. Deeply convict me of my conceited insolence. Break my proud and haughty spirit. Turn Your search-light on me and enable me to understand the depths of my depravity.

You are the God of Infinite Kindness and Grace.

As I consider the greatness of Your character and redeeming grace — my spirit is overwhelmed with deep sadness. All my thoughts and actions appear to violate, contradict and oppose Your wonderful, loving, holy Person and work. Have mercy on me.

You have unlimited wisdom — and yet I find myself trying to improve on Your will for my life and even more serious — to believe my will and plans are better than Yours. I confess such sin before you in shame and sorrow of heart. Please forgive me.

You are unlimited love and holiness — and You have clearly invited me to come to You and receive Your joy, freedom and fulfillment. With confusion of face and heart, I must confess before You that I have sought love and fulfillment in all the wrong places. I have not believed You nor have I sought fulfillment of Your promise with any shade of diligence. You have said to seek You with all my heart — but I have perversely given my heart away to many things and people. Forgive my depravity, my deception, my ignorance, and my stubborn and willful waywardness. O God, forgive me, and rescue me.

You are filled with unlimited grace and mercy — and have carefully warned me not to try to add to the work of the Lord Jesus. I do believe He is Your Son and the Messiah. And yet, in spite of my belief I often find myself trying to gain merit by my works which has always led me into bondage. Forgive me, cleanse me, open my spiritual understanding, and help me. I need You. Only You can help me. Come and rescue me.

I ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus, and for His sake alone. Amen

Victor M. Matthews

