

OCTOBER 20-26

"Forgive Us Our Sins" Prayers of Intercession

MONDAY 10/20

SAMUEL 12:1–14 PSALM 51

When Nathan confronted David about his sin with Bathsheba, David's heart was laid bare before God. David's response, as recorded in Psalm 51, shows what true confession looks like: honest, broken, and fully dependent on God's mercy. David didn't justify or minimize his sin, he owned it and he pleaded for cleansing and renewal. God's forgiveness didn't erase the consequences, but it restored David's relationship with him. Confession isn't just about feeling sorry, it's about turning back to the One who alone can create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit.

- 1. Have you ever been tempted to hide your sin instead of confessing it? What would make you turn back to God?
- 2. What speaks to you the most about David's prayer in Psalm 51? Why?

TUESDAY 10/21

ISAIAH 1:16-18

Through Isaiah, God calls his people to cleanse themselves, not through ritual, but through true repentance that produces changed behavior. Confession involves more than words, it's a commitment to turn from what is wrong and pursue what is right. God's promise is amazing: though our sins are scarlet, he can make them white as snow. In confession, we trade our guilt for God's grace, our stains for God's cleansing. The God who judges sin is also the God who delights in restoration.

- 1. What does it mean in your life to "wash and make yourself clean" before God?
- 2. How does your life reflect a genuine desire to turn from sin, not just to be forgiven?

WEDNESDAY 10/22

LUKE 12:9-14

Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector exposes the difference between prideful self-righteousness and humble confession. The Pharisee trusted in his own goodness, while the tax collector could only cry, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Jesus said the humble man went home justified. True confession begins when we stop comparing ourselves to others and start seeing ourselves as we are before God. When we confess from a humble heart, we receive mercy fro God that self-righteousness can never find.

- 1. Have there been times in your life when you see yourself in each of the two men Jesus described?
- 2. How does the tax collector's simple prayer reveal the heart God honors?

ROMANS 2:4

In this single, powerful verse, Paul reminds us that it is not fear or punishment, but the kindness of God that leads us to repentance. When we recognize how patient and merciful God has been with us, our hearts are softened to turn from sin. Confession becomes not a duty born of guilt but a response born of gratitude. God's grace invites us to change, to let his goodness draw us back into right relationship with him. The more deeply we understand God's kindness, the more freely we confess and the more eagerly we pursue holiness.

- 1. How have you experienced the kindness of God leading you toward repentance?
- 2. How can gratitude for God's patience shape your attitude toward confession?

FRIDAY 10/24

PSALM 139:23-24

David's prayer for God to search his heart reveals deep trust and humility. He invites God to expose whatever within him is offensive or destructive. Confession begins with this same openness: a willingness to be examined by the One who knows us completely and still loves us fully. When we ask God to search us, we are surrendering control and allowing his Spirit to bring hidden things into the light. Such prayer leads not to shame, but to freedom, as God guides us in the everlasting way.

- 1. How does trusting God's love make it easier to face the truth about yourself?
- 2. How is confession an ongoing part of your relationship with God? Is it regular or sporadic, specific or general?

SATURDAY/ SUNDAY 10/25-26

MATTHEW 6:9-14 1 JOHN 1:8-10

Jesus teaches his followers to include confession in daily prayer: "forgive us our debts/sins/trespasses." John echoes this truth, reminding us that denial of sin deceives us, but confession brings cleansing and restoration. Forgiveness is not automatic, it flows from honesty before God and from a heart willing to forgive others as we have been forgiven. In confession we come clean, not to inform God of our sin, but to agree with him about what our sin is, to own it, and to receive the grace that makes us whole again.

1. How does being honest about your own sin affect your ability to forgive others?

2. Why is it important to believe that God truly cleanses us from all unrighteousness and what does that mean for you in your daily life?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

(1 John 1:9)