

GUIDELINES FOR CONFESSION *

1. Confession should be directed by the Holy Spirit.
2. Limit confession to what is corporately (as a group) agreed on as sin.
3. Corporate confession is not accusation of others but agreement with God and with one another.
4. Confession includes sins of omission and commission.
5. The purpose of confessing personal sin is to secure forgiveness or to enlist prayer support.
6. Any sin that causes damage to a group should be publicly confessed.
7. The circle of confession should be as wide as the circle of damage done by the sin.
8. Confession should not be public when it would hurt other persons or lead to anger or lust.

Circle sins that could be church sins or group sins rather than individual sins. Some could be both.

Pride	Murder	Robbery	Sexual immorality
Envy	Adultery	Bribery	Tolerating evil
Greed	Unbelief	Unforgiveness	Shifting priority from God
Lying	Gossip	Bitterness	Neglecting the needy

PRAY A PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Pray, asking God to reveal sin in your life that hinders your relationship with Him. Use the sample prayers of confession to agree with God about your sin. Be specific. Seek God's cleansing and restoration. Ask Him to make you holy, as He is holy.

DANIEL'S PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

"I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers:
You have given me wisdom and power,
you have made known to me what we asked of you,
you have made known to us the dream of the king." (Daniel 2:23)

Three times a day [Daniel] got down on his knees and prayed,
giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. (Daniel 6:10)

JESUS' PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks,
and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. (John 6:11)

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me."
(John 11:41)

PAUL'S PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

I have not stopped giving thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers. (Ephesians 1:16)

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength,
that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. (1 Timothy 1:12)

A CALL TO THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done. (Psalm 105:1)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1)

Give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

* Taken from: *In God's Presence*, T.W. Hunt and Claude V. King, LifeWay Press: Nashville, Tennessee

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BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR ASKING PRAYERS

1. **ASK IN THE SPIRIT.** This means that requests proceed from the mind of the Spirit, not from selfish motives or self-serving ends. Praying in the Spirit is directly related to praying according to His will.

“I will pray with my spirit.” (1 Corinthians 14:15)
“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions.” (Ephesians 6:18)
2. **ASK ACCORDING TO HIS WILL.** Our limitation in prayer is this:
“We do not know what we ought to pray for,
but the Spirit himself intercedes for us ...
in accordance with God’s will.” (Romans 8:26-27)

Ask according to God’s will with the help of the Holy Spirit.

When you don’t know what to ask keep praying and seeking God’s direction for your prayer.

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.
And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—
we know that we have what we asked of him.” (1 John 5:14-15)
3. **ASK WITH THE MIND.** Your mind helps you form your requests and make them precise and specific. Prayer lists can help keep your mind focused and prevent wandering. It also enables you to pray specifically and persistently until the answer comes.

“I will also pray with my mind.” (1 Corinthians 14:15)
4. **ASK IN JESUS’ NAME.** When you use Jesus name you come in His character. You take on His desires, qualities, gratitude, and outlook. When you prepare to make a request you might ask yourself what would Jesus want in this situation. Take on His heart. In the context of ministry Jesus says,

“I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.” (John 14:13)

5. **ASK WHILE ABIDING IN CHRIST.** To abide in Him, you continue in constant fellowship with Him; you pray without ceasing; and you obediently accept His will and Word for you. As a branch abides in the vine, a Christian abides in Christ. Spend time with Him in prayer and in His Word.

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.” (John 15:7)
6. **ASK IN FAITH.** Asking in faith means asking without doubt in your heart. You are confident that God is God. Recognize God’s authority to answer in the way He chooses. Have confidence in God’s care and purposes for your life.

“Have faith in God.... Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:22, 24)
7. **ASK WITH HUMILITY.** Come to God recognizing His greatness and your need. Humility submits to God, whereas pride, arrogance and independence prevent an attitude of humility.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray ... (2 Chronicles 7:14)
8. **ASK IN SINCERITY.** When you pray in sincerity, your faith leads you to pray genuine, heartfelt prayers.

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16)
9. **ASK WITH PERSEVERANCE.** Perseverance means persistence, not giving up.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:18)