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Confession, Confess your Sins

And
Putting on the Armor of God
Then
"The Confessional"

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Confession a Worldly point of View

We will deal with confession as seen by one of the largest religions Christian religion in the world a little later, but for now let's have a look at worldly confession, with confronting the sins of others. Then we will look at the true confession of our Lord, about our Lord, our confession of Faith

I have made my share of confessions too, and always find it difficult to admit a fault and even hard to apologize for having wronged another person. We are all sinners, everyone and since becoming a new person in the Spirit of the Christ shouldn't we let old dogs lay, let by gone be by gone? Are we told to confess all our sins to others? I hope to answer some of these troubling questions from His Word.

I knew of a situation once where a physiologist advised a client to confront his tormentor. You know -- face the one that harmed you. In this case it was his

mother whom he blamed for everything that had ever gone wrong in his life. His confession to this trained specialist was not about his guilt but his hurt feelings. This mental health facilitator has not power to forgive sin on either side and so it has become the practice of such specialist to advise those tormented souls to face up to their fears or the one they think is their enemy. This comes from living in a life of comfort and ease, comparatively to other parts of the world, where they would laugh at such nonsense.

Forget that he was a success in just about everything; he had inner turmoil that he felt was her fault because she made him obey her rules while a child, she had dared to be a parent. He became part of the upper educational system and in this environment the pupils and the teachers indoctrinated themselves to blame their feelings of guilt, their sinful nature, if you will, on their parents, and so he was.

Following the instruction of his mental health adviser he purposely scheduled a meeting with his mother for a face to face confrontation so he could tell her about all his distress and anguish and, really, hate that he had toward her. He also told her this was part of his therapy and could not be avoided, so she went along with it but in fear, fear, even, for her life. After the meeting he felt better, I guess, because she did not hear from him for a long time. But my guess is this meeting never really vanquished the guilt he felt. It takes some longer than others to grow up and as an adult came to see that some of the trouble, maybe all of the trouble was really with himself.

He had accomplished nothing really in his search to find forgiveness for his own bad thoughts, preferring instead to blame others for even his minor faults. His mother had been afraid of him because he acted as if he hated her and after this meeting she was still terrified and did not want to be alone with him, ever. What sparked all of this anguish and resentment and hate from her son? She had slapped him once when he was about 10 years old for talking back to her. That was it, nothing else, destroying his "successful" life. From seeing the outside of his life he appeared confident, successful and living a life he wanted, but inwardly he was in turmoil, blaming the natural feelings of guilt on someone else. Of course, he never did the one thing that would have help him, and that would have been to call his mother and thank her for turning him into a responsible adult able to have achieved the credentials recognized by his educational peers as worthy enough to teach others. That would have helped him and her but what would have lifted the feeling he felt pressing in on him would have been recognizing and accepting YaHshua as his Savior and granting him the ultimate "forgiveness" of sin, true

forgiveness that only He can grant and when experienced a heavy weight seems to lift and a sense of "freedom" that gives a feeling of great "joy". Slaves no more, all is forgiven. Certainly recognizing his mother as human, and not blaming her for his sins and feelings of guilt but giving her credit for some of his success and actually turning out to be a decent human would have benefited him but not totally -- only YaHshua can bring the real peace we seek. Our struggle is continuous, our repentance from weak moments and trials is ongoing, but we must never give up, knowing he is willing to forgive us more often than we are or can forgive each other.

This is how the world handles things, take all the credit to yourself for all of your perceived successes, and blame everyone else for your guilt or mistakes. Today, for him, things have changed; he finally married someone and now has children of his own. That always changes things, when you begin to walk in the other person's shoes. I wonder what he will do the first time his son back talks back to him? Oh, wait, his son is only 4 and already doing that.

Is this how a believer should handle this? Is this the psychology in the Christian faith to confront our attacker or to go to the one we think we have harmed and confess our sins? Does it make things better, and if it does, for whom? What is the purpose of our confession to a brother or sister in the faith, is it the same obligation as to one outside of the faith? Maybe we can find out by examining what the Scriptures have to say. I feel a whole book could be written on this subject but we do not need to write a book in order to understand a biblical principle, the principle of "confession" and putting on the whole "armor of God".

True Forgiveness

It is only by His, our Savior's blood, that we can come to our Heavenly Father as clean kids, all forgiven and never remembered. If He, our Heavenly Father is willing to forget our sins then we should too or at least try not to dwell on them - sin will be forgotten and remembered not more when we enter the Kingdom (Hebrews 8:12; 10:17). We are new creatures in the Spirit but still bound to the fleshly body. Our Spirit bound with His Spirit supported by our confession and acceptance of Him as our Savior, covers it all.

The day is coming when He will give us the power to completely forget our sins just as we have read in Hebrew 8 and 10. You have forgiven me for not being a better person and I have forgiven you in a like manner as we headed for perfection that is only found in Him -- praise God -- and when we are complete we, when we

are "quickenened" then we will all stand as new beings experiencing the gifts and the treats our Heavenly Father wants to share with us.

(Rom 8:11) But if the Spirit of Him (the Father) that raised up YaHshua from the dead lives in you, He (the Father) that raised up the Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that lives in you.

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God (the Father), being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

John 5:21 For as the Father raised up the dead, and quickens even so the Son quickens whom He will.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I (YaHshua) speak to you, are spirit, and are life.

We have a great future ahead of us -

(1Jn 3:2) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Come YaHshua, come, that the Kingdom may be established and the preparation for the coming of our Father when it is all finished and we enter eternity (Rev 22:3-5). Amen and Hallel-YaH.

Confessing one to another, or to God?

A brother in our Lord YaHshua confesses his sins to those he has wronged. My response is not to find fault in this as it is an admirable thing. And to admit we are failed human beings and to settle accounts with a brothers or sister, especially in the faith is truly a righteous thing to do but the real confession should be to our Heavenly Father - this I hope to demonstrate, not by my words but His.

Is it a real requirement, that we confess our sins to others? I have heard this before even from the pulpit - "confess you sins one to another", but is that what scripture really says? I have asked forgiveness from others for my poor judgments of the past but as I grew in the Knowledge of our Lord I came to a better balance in the truth concerning this important subject.

Confession and Confessing and Testimony

A brother in our Lord YaHshua confesses his sins to those he has wronged. My response is not to find fault in this as it is an admirable thing to admit when we are wrong or to ask forgiveness of one we have wronged. And to admit we are failed human beings and to settle accounts with a brothers or sister, especially in the faith, is truly a righteous thing to do but the real confession should be to our Heavenly Father - this I hope to demonstrate, not by my words but His.

What about what James said, to confess our sins to one another? Actually James does not say this. He says to confess our "faults", not our "sins" to each other and these two terms are different in application. They are different terms by definition. (James 5:12 - more on this verse later)

Is it a real requirement, that we confess our sins to others? I have heard this before even from the pulpit - "*confess you sins one to another*", but is that what scripture really says? I have asked forgiveness from others for my poor judgments of the past but as I grew in the Knowledge of our Lord I came to a better balance in the truth concerning this important subject.

When we confess a sin or sins against another, brother, sister of the faith or anyone outside of our beliefs that we feel we have wronged we are seeking "forgiveness", but from whom? This is not bad, and can bring temporary relief, but what if the one offended does not accept your confession? Accepting forgiveness from men is not the same as when we receive forgiveness from God our Father, one is permanent and complete, the other only temporary. If the "confession" is a general confession "before men" should it be a listing of all the things we have done in our lives, every nasty detail? I do not think it is. John was baptizing in the river Jordon and the record tells us people "confessed their sins and were baptized", and this was all happening before YaHshua appear in front of John to be baptized Himself.

These people were not confessing YaHshua, they were repenting for their own feelings of sorrow - - they were sorry for their wickedness, their part in the wickedness of the people as a whole, of their nation, and wanted forgiveness for being part of those collectively having turned from YaHWeH. In John's message he spoke of a coming change and we are told that he was preparing the way for YaHshua's coming, for His revealing, and to "*prepare a people for Him*". And this is exactly what happened. There was an awareness of many having heard or heard about John's message in all Israel, that a coming Messiah was going to appear in

that time. John's baptism was a baptism of physical repentance, it would be the coming of Yahshua that would bring in the baptism of the Spirit in His Name and the Name of the Father. He in us and all in the Father (John 17:20, 23). John's work was to prepare the way and in that the preparing of a people to receive our Lord YaHshua.

(Luke 1:17) And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of EliYaH, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready **a people prepared for the Lord.**

(John 1:45) Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, YaHshua of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

John's call did prepare the way for YaHshua, preparing a people of a repentant nature awakened to a Messiah to come soon in their time. While John is not mentioned when Philip found Nathanael we can see from the activities of the day, from the attention John's message was getting from the people and the priests that we can safely assume this heightened awareness, even among fishermen in a small village were part of the "preparing of a people", a people that would accept YaHshua as the promised Messiah, and we see the evidence of that clearly as YaHshua collect the original disciples to Him.

True Confession

A brother came to me once and confessed all the wrongs he felt he had committed toward me and others. I love the brother for his confession and I in turn asked his forgiveness for all of the seen and unseen wrongs I may have committed toward him but our *true confession* of sin is and should be to the One we have truly wronged -- our Creator. There may be times we should not even mention the sins of a previous life, a life before our calling, that is finished with our confession and acceptance of our Savior YaHshua -- the old man dead. Consider the following verses, as we consider a much larger answer to this question of "confession" and where it belongs in our life as believers.

(Mat 10:32) *Whosoever therefore shall confess Me (YaHshua) before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*

(Luke 12:8) Also I say to you, Who-so-ever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

(Rom 10:8-10) But what says it? "The word is near you, even in your mouth, and in your heart": that is, the word of faith, which we preach; that if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord YaHshua, and shall believe in your heart that God (the Father) has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

In the context, the question at the beginning of the above verses, "But what says it?", the "it" is "righteousness that comes by faith" and we find the evidence and proof for the actions of this inner "faith" recorded in His Word and the writings of His Apostles, in the book we call the Holy Bible -- YaHshua even said His word were "spirit", this happens as we accept what is written and revealed to us in our hearts (physical) and minds (spirit). There is a comparison of righteousness by "law" or by "faith" and it is *righteousness by faith* that is speaking here and has ultimate authority in our spiritual lives. In the total message we see how important our "confession" is, our willingness to *confess YaHshua is our Savior*, without evidence and without the law we accept Him as our Messiah as our Savior not only in our hearts and minds but by our mouth in *confession* as well -- not ashamed to call Him our salvation - not ashamed to call on His Name (Acts 4:10-12 - remember, the false name, JESUS was not known until 400 years ago and is not His Name - when these verses were recorded and spoken, His Name then and now -- still the ONLY Name by which we must be saved was and still is YaHshua -- *there is not other Name under heaven by which we must be saved, amen*).

(Rom 14:11-13) For it is written, As I live, said the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God (the Father). So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

Our accounting is to God Himself and in this we then do not judge each other in our past sins anymore, that is finished without confession to Him -- In this case the judging is of brother, your spiritual brother or sister, in YaHshua, for we are obligated to determine, to judge between wolves among the brethren and the sheep that belong to YaHshua - for truly wolves have been coming in among the

brethren for over 2,000 years and Satan grooms his own causing many to appear as light bringers, Satan himself appearing as an Angel of Light - the deception is strong (2 Cor 11:14-15), sad but true, so we must be aware and be not afraid to speak out in our Confession of Him and the exposing of the wolves

(Eph 5:7-12) Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

We are obligated not to be sucked into the false light of Satan and his minions as we read in 2 Cor 11"14-15. They are in the Church, they, in so many places, carrying away many by their deceptions and false teachings, teachings that appeal to many in a false love and rejection of the true Christ. Who we confess as our Savior is more than important it is Salvation.

Confessing our Lord

(Php 2:11) And every tongue should confess that YaHshua the Christ *is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

(1Jn 4:15) Whosoever shall confess that YaHshua is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God (the Father).

(2Jn 1:7) For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that YaHshua, the Christ, is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. (This is true today more than ever, as most confess the false name, JESUS. It is in the name of YaHshua we must confess, there is no other name by which we must be saved, Acts 4:12)

And YaHshua says:

(Rev 3:5) He that overs, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

We should notice that the act of "confession" is toward our Heavenly Father and in our commitment to our one and only Savior YaHshua, whom we confess to be the

Son of God the Father, whom He, YaHshua, came to reveal. There is but one verse that suggests we confess to our brethren our "faults" - James 5:16

(Rom 10:10-11) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture said, 'Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed'.

Our confession is to Him and about Him. We confess that we are sinners and in this we acknowledge our need for Him as our Savior. Our willingness to admit our 'faults' to like believers is to keep us humble and ever mindful of our weakness and heightens our awareness of how we should treat one another. Also if we are willing to admit our own personal failings it makes it nearly impossible for any believer to feel superior to another brother or sister. But this admission and willingness to admit a "fault" does not mean we go around in a constant state declaring our sinful nature for this too can, eventually, become a kind of self-righteousness, almost a pride life. Our "confession of sin" is toward our Heavenly Father, for it is He that we have sinned against when we do sin or have sinned. A brother or sister in the Lord or outside of the Lord may be the victim of our sin but the real violation is against our God and our Lord. We, in our repentance, our confession of acceptance of Him, places all past sins under his blood forever - forever! We need to put YaHshua over our sin, ACCEPTING HIS BLOOD to cover us making it possible for us to come "boldly before the Throne of our Heavenly Father. In our confession of Him we have this forgiving power and are forgiven when we sincerely repent of deed or thought every time. Seek forgiveness from Him and He will take care of the rest.

Someone may say, What about Hebrew 10:26? "*For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins*". The Key word here is "willfully" - if you sin on purpose, without regard for His Words of His Spirit screaming in your mind to turn around, but you do it anyway, whatever it may be. To sin accidentally, which we all know is very possible, to say the wrong thing and wish we could take it back - well, we can, we repent to Him that can forgive us. Our fellow man can forgive us but may see us with lesser eyes but the forgiveness from YaHshua and from our Heavenly Father is perfect and absolute as if it never occurred. This is the forgiveness we need to seek. It is noble to ask a brother or sister to forgive us if we have wronged them but it benefits no one to list things forgotten by most, especially before our calling. The true cleansing is from and through our Savior, this should be the priority. I think

this is what is meant by being "justified by grace", or "underserved pardon" - praise God, which is to say, HalleluYaH!

Confessing to Others?

There is a reason we need more than one translation of the Scriptures, especially in their day and age of increased knowledge. The information available to the believer today is unlike any time in history, so we are without excuse. In fact we are instructed, from the beginning, to grow in knowledge (Dan 12:4 and Mat 13:11, Rom 10:2, 2 Pet 1:5 and 2 Pet 3:18).

The following verses have different meanings in different translations. This is where gaining and growing in knowledge come to our aid with the help of the Holy Spirit of the Christ.

KJV reads:

(Jas 5:16) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

NIV reads:

(James 5:16) Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Faults and sins, so which is it. Sins are not "faults" for as humans, by nature, we are faulty. Our first "fault" is that we are perishable, plus other things but the point is that we acknowledge our limitations one to another and if we are willing to follow this principle we will remain humble among our brethren and not be swept away by thoughts and actions of self-aggrandizement, self-promotion, etc. But let's go to the Greek to see if this is correct, if the word for "fault" means anything more than that.

G3900 "fault" -- a *side slip (lapse or deviation)*, that is, (unintentional) *error* or (willful) *transgression*: - fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass.

There is two choices here, "unintentional error" or by choice, "willful transgression, or sin". I believe the KJV is the better choice here as we willingly admit to our faults for the benefit of the brotherhood.

G266 "sin" -- *sin* (properly abstract): - offence, sin (-ful).

The word used in James was not "sin" but "fault" which should lead us to believe James is giving instruction not for our confessing the evils, the sin we have done in lives but rather a willingness to admit to one another our faulty nature. We can see this difference between these two words of instruction in the next verse.

(1Jn 1:8-10) If we say that we have no sin (G266), we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

You see, the "sin" is in the "offence" against God. When we deny Him, or reject His Son He is justly "offended" and it is our "offence" by our actions that is the sin. There is also another "sin" which is defined by the Law, for it is also written, that "*sin is the transgression of the Law*"

(1Jn 3:4) Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

We offend our Creator when we ignore or transgress His law, the things He preset to define physical righteousness and for mankind's physical wellbeing, first toward Him and then toward our fellow man. It is not the honoring of His Law that saves us, no, Salvation is only from and through YaHshua. If anything the LAW condemns us, as it is written, while the righteousness of YaHshua and our Confession concerning Him is our Salvation. It is a paying of respect to our Creator, the creator of the Law itself, that we live a life honoring His law. For we also have a LAW in the Christ

(Rom 8:2) For the law of the Spirit of life in the Christ YaHshua has made me free from the law of sin and death.

(Rom 7:25) I thank God through YaHshua the Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

(Rom 10:4) For The Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

(Gal 2:21) I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

The New Testament seems to be split on this subject of Law and grace. On the one hand there are verses and teachings saying the Law is not abolished and is the expression of our Creator's desire for our wellbeing toward ourselves, others, and toward Him. Then there are verses and teachings that say the Law has been moved out of the way, even that the Law has been changed, so what is the truth?

What is not notice, or maybe ignored, there were actually two branches to the New Testament Church - the Jewish side and eventually the Gentile side. Reading Acts 15 you find out that the Gentile side was set apart from the Jewish side by the Elders of the Jerusalem council. They did not obligate the Gentile believers to follow the Law, speaking of the Law of Moses. The church moved from being controlled by the Jewish brethren, they being still bound to the Laws and customs of Moses, the Torah, because of their heritage, to being controlled by the Gentiles. But the biggest Gentile church we see coming out of the first century did not even follow the requirements laid down by the Jerusalem council concerning Idol worship. Still, the Jewish side lost out in the power struggle in the flesh and blood body of the Christian Church.

Both sides failed but the real body of the Christ did not. Still the argument rages among those trying to restore the Hebrew roots of the first century and in so doing are mistakenly attempting to restore the Old Covenant. The Gentile Christians are split five hundred different ways and for the most part, of the larger works, are based on a pagan theology that has been married to the Old and New Covenant.

What has this to do with our Confession? Everything if you want to make sure you are confessing your allegiance to the right god and not some other god or Savior. We confess in His Name. We see the importance of this when we understand how the Gentile Church has accepted a name that is not His Name. On the Jewish side, both the Hebrew Roots people (most are not real Jews or Hebrews) and the Messianic believers (actual Jewish descendants) have missed the mark also. The Jewish inclination not to use the Name of the God of Israel, using substitutes instead, or by dropping letters, they come up with a name that is not a name. Their error is not as great as that of the Christians but they still miss the mark, not by accident, as seems the case with the Christians but on purpose.

I confess that YaHshua is Savior and is the only way, the only door by which we must enter to be saved. There is not many roads to Salvation, only the one,

YaHshua. He is the way, the only way, the only path, confess Him and receive life. All others, and all other names are useless, for there is only one by which we must be saved, the one and only Name we must confess. Not everyone can accept this today for the deception is strong, but a time is and will come, after Yahshua returns, when there will be only One Savior, under One Name and then only those willing to bow under that Name, acknowledging YaHshua as Savior in their confession will be allowed to enter the Kingdom of God.

Sin Confession

We have a common Savior and in confessing Him as our Savior we can then claim His blood to cover the sin, or sins we have committed. Our *confession of sin* is a personal thing between us individually and our Savior and God the Father. By this act of "repentance" we realize the wonder and joy of being forgiven, being released from the slavery of the flesh and will experience a huge weight being lifted. It is then we understand the need for our Savior and the magnificent sacrifice He made for us. It is more than just repenting, as was the case with many during John's baptism of repentance. With us it is our Confession to our Heavenly Father that we accept His Son as our Savior and this coupled with our confession acknowledging our sinful nature and our need for Him and then it is His pleasure to forgive us. Yahshua has taken the beating we deserve for us, he entered death row for us paying the ultimate price for us. We need to thank Him, confess Him, and claim His blood to cover our sinful nature. When we slip He is there covering us with His sacrifice. We must never let up in being watchful for our failings and be quick to repent knowing always that "willful" sin is not covered, so when tempted keep this in mind.

Admitting the wrongs we have done to others is not enough, in fact, that is not a requirement. The requirement is your admissions to God Himself and it is then His pleasure to offer you YaHshua, it is YaHshua's pleasure to cover you with the His blood. For without blood there is no forgiveness, and with this being understood all the confessions of sin to other men, even brothers, brings only praise from other from the flesh -- the sin remains, however.

Accepting YaHshua's sacrifice and confessing Him wipes the sin away, as if it never existed and every time we slip we have YaHshua's blood to cover our repentant heart and remove the sin and the wrongs we may have done as if they never happened (Heb 9:22).

Let us live in His righteousness as we walk in a life guided by His Word and the words of His Apostles. The word is the sword of our faith by which we can slay the dragon and his demons. Faith is your shield, fending off the arrows Satan - What, just poetic words? Read it for yourself -

(Eph 6:13-17) Wherefore take to you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt (upper and lower abdomen securely wrapped) about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel (good news) of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Note: "loins girt", in today's language, tighten your belt so your pants don't fall off and reveal your nakedness. In some part of the world, "tighten your sash about your waist, or even the wrappings around your lower parts. In other words, secure yourself for a hard run. With His truth secure yourself as one getting ready for a long journey.

(1Th 5:8) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

We must stand on His word, wrapping ourselves in His truth, His Holy Book, the Book from which the Apostles taught, the Book that declared and declares YaHshua as our Savior. His words of truth are likened to a sword, cutting both ways. The sword of that day was and still is the book we call the Old Testament. I like to think of this sword being sheathed in the scabbard we call the New Testament. It is the New Testament delivered to us by YaHshua and His Apostles. Put on the whole armor of God, not just one piece but the whole armor. Praise God, Praise YaH, which is to say, HalleluYah!

The Armor of God --

Truth: His truth as revealed in His word, the Holy Bible

Shield of Faith: Unconditional belief in the resurrection of the dead, His return and the Kingdom to come -

*(Heb 11:1) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
(Heb 11:7)*

Feet Shod: We stand on the Message of the Good News, the Coming Kingdom of God, when there will be peace.

(Mat 4:23) And YaHshua went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues (churches), and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (Mat 9:35)

(Mat 24:14) And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come.

Brest Plate of Righteousness: His righteousness in us, the guide to our conduct among men and toward our Father and our Savior in Heaven.

(Mat 6:33) But seek you first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

Helmet of Salvation: Our faith in the coming resurrection, being delivered, saved, literally by our Savior from the dead to eternal life. This we put on and around our head, around our mind, our brain. This would make us very hard headed in our trust in our Lord's promise to us.

(Act 4:12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

(Rom 10:9-11) That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord YaHshua, and shall believe in your heart that God (the Father) has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture says, Whosoever believes on Him shall not be ashamed.

Sword of the Spirit: We are told exactly what this is - "*which is the Word of God*". YaHshua once told His disciples that His words were and are "spirit" and we have a record of His words in the Holy Bible, the Sword.

*(John 6:63) It is the spirit that quickens (is truly alive); the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.*

(2Ti 2:15) Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needing not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(Eph 1:13-14) In whom you also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest (deposit, down payment) of our inheritance until the redemption (cashing in) of the purchased possession (us, individually), to the praise of his glory.

Prayer: The last element in the "armor of God" is our conversation and our requests made to and with Him. In our walk with our Savior and our Heavenly

Father we communicate on a continual basis, never forgetting to mention our brothers and sisters in Him.

(Eph 6:18) 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.

This is what is meant by, "walking with God". "We pray in the Spirit all the time", is another way of saying it. "Keeping this in mind, we should be conscious of this and remember the other children of God", is another way of saying the rest. And another way some have looked at it and even a book or two has been written with this concept in mind. Maybe not the same exact idea but the same idea; when you are moving along in your life and have thoughts, what are they? When you look at something, how often do you mentally ask or discuss what you are looking at with your Father in heaven? Or how often do you ask, "What would YaHshua do?" That is praying in the spirit, but this verse is even more than that it is telling us that our Spirit is in the act of communicating with our Heavenly Father all the time, a direct connect, whether we are watching TV, talking to a friend or neighbor or sleeping. This is why we are told to "be alert" and if we are, we will act and think accordingly.

Praise Him, our Heavenly Father, giving thanks always as our sacrifice acknowledging Him and confessing YaHshua as our Savior, His first born Son, YaHshua.

Saving the Best for Last, or Not

Confessing your sins to a Priest

Admitting you have sinned or had sinful thoughts is to admit you are human. It does cause for some relieve when we admit our errors. However, the forgiveness of your sins is only found in the Christ, our Savior YaHshua. No man can forgive your sins and no man other than our Savior YaHshua, can remove the stain of sin. Some have gone to the confessional and then revealed intimate secrets to a person sitting in the booth next to them and this person give the sinner something to do to atone for their sin. Through YaHshua, sin is either forgiven and you walk away free of it is not. There is not one example of YaHshua requiring a payment of any kind, other than to believe in Him, for the forgiveness of sin. The idea of entering a confessional and bearing all to another human is not biblical. The confessional gives the priests a great power over you. What you tell in secret is no longer secret. The person sitting next to you, separated by a screen, is still a person with the same desires and fault as yourself. They do not have the power to forgive sin but they claim this power to themselves and the Church, but it is only YaHshua that can forgive sin.

Down through the ages of the Roman Church the “confessional” has been a tool of control and abuse. Priests hear the most intimate secrets and then they know you but you do not really know them. They know your weakness and can play on and trade off of your weakness. The stories of sexual predators in the Churches is no longer just a story but fact. For every priest that will deal honestly with you there will be one that won't – remember, they are only flesh themselves.

But doesn't it say to confess out sins? We already covered this but it will not hurt to look at this from the view from the confessional –

(Jas 5:16) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

(1Jn 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1Jn 4:15) Whosoever shall confess that YaHshua is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God (the Father).

James 5:16: Who is it we are to confess our “faults”? To each other, and by this we then know what to pray for when we pray for our brothers and sisters and they know what we need also. It has nothing to do with paying a price, of buying off our faults. Some things are between you and your Creator to the Savior, the one that paid the price for you. In the advice of Scripture admitting one's faults is to humble oneself, not the revealing of every evil you may have thought or done, this instruction is to let other concerned believers know that you too have struggles and need prayer to help you grow and overcome a fault, like smoking or impure thoughts. This does not mean you are to sit around and discuss your every sin, sins you have already been forgiven. In a way that is crucifying the Messiah all over again.

1 Jn 1:9 ; Notice this next verse, “...*He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...*” Some churches, especially the Roman Catholic Church has taken this authority and right of our Savior, YaHshua, to themselves – only He can forgive sin and He is faithful in this. To give other men this authority is to play Christ and that is an evil in itself. The Pope and no man is in place of the Christ, ever, but this is what we are told by men, that the Pope in Rome is the Vicar of the Christ, that is to say, in His Stead, or in His place.

Our confession is all about our Savior. Which Christ (Messiah) is your Christ? Who do you confess before men as your Savior? As for me I confess YaHshua as the Son of God the Father and as my Savior – HalleluYaH, which is to say, Praise you YaH.

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