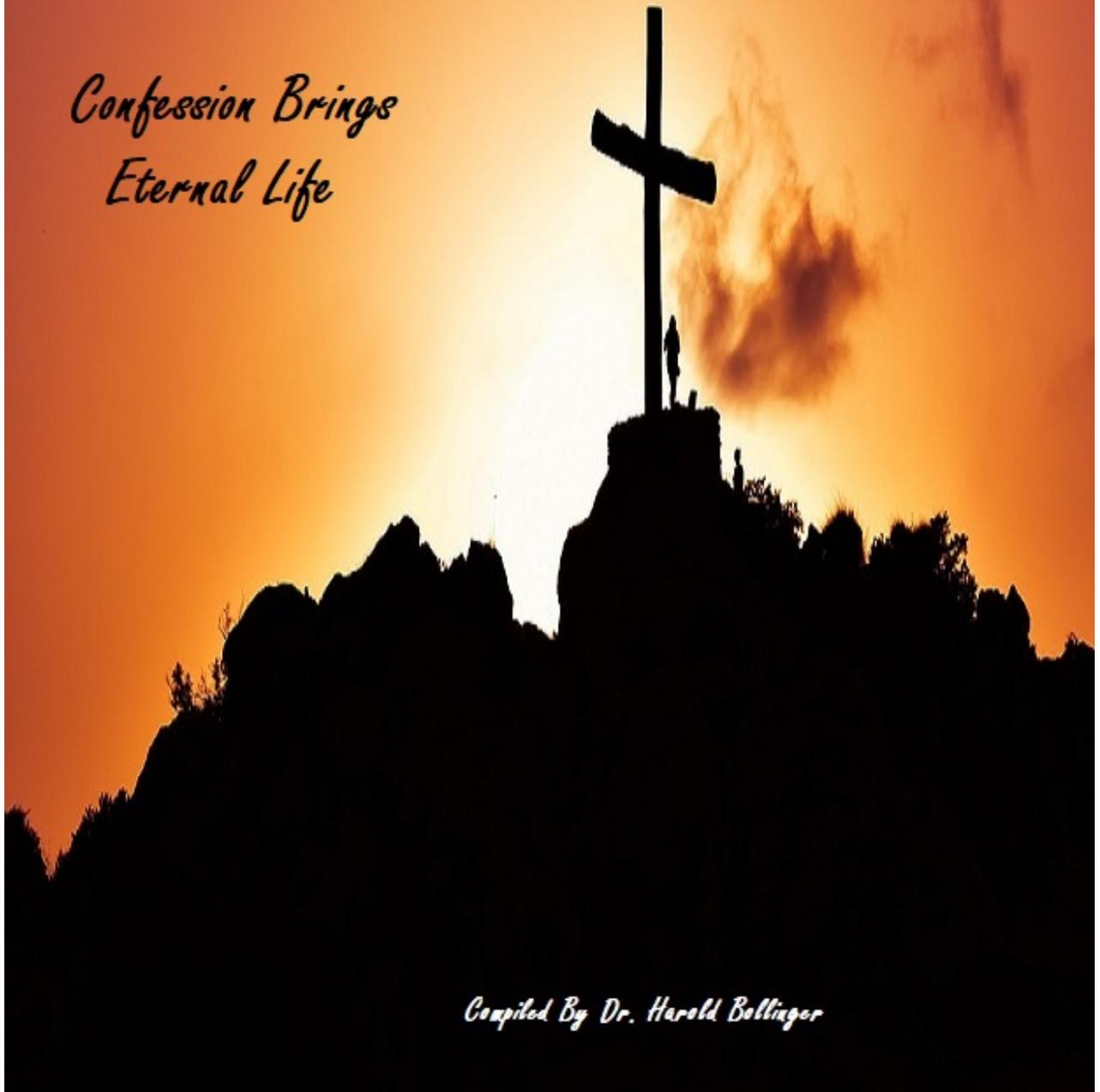


Denying The Lord

*Confession Brings
Eternal Life*



Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

Denying the Lord

Peter's reaction to the trial of Jesus, our Lord.

Mark 14:53-54

And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. [54] And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.

This trial by the high council had two phases. A small group met at night (John 18:12-24), and then the full high council met at daybreak (Luke 22:66-71). They tried Jesus for religious offenses, such as calling himself the Son of God, which, according to law, was blasphemy.

The trial was fixed: These religious leaders had already decided to kill Jesus (Luke 22:2).

The enemy will build a fire of deception at the times in our lives where coldness and uncertainty are the most likely.

The Fires of the world are attractive.

The closer a person get to a fire, the more they are in danger of being burned, for we will be taken down a path we don't want to go.

John 18:18

And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.

We can easily blame the high council for their injustice in condemning Jesus, but we must remember that Peter and the rest of the disciples also contributed to Jesus' pain by deserting and denying him (Matthew 26:56, 75).

While most of us are not like the religious leaders, we may be like the disciples, in denying Christ in vital areas for all of us have been guilty of denying Christ in Lord in vital areas of our lives or of keeping secret our identity as believers in times of pressure.

Do not seek to fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Be careful not to confuse your subjective feelings with the Spirit's leading.

Being led by the Holy Spirit involves the desire to hear, the readiness to obey God's Word, and the sensitivity to discern between your feelings and his promptings.

Live each day controlled and guided by the Holy Spirit. Then the words of Christ will be in your mind, the love of Christ will be behind your actions, and the power of Christ will help you control your selfish desires.

Disobedience will take us further then we intended to go.

There is no record of Peter walking away from the fire even after His first denial. Wrong desires will keep you longer than you intended to stay.

The fires of the world will destroy the things of life that you love most.

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

In contrast to the thief who takes life, Jesus gives life. The life he gives right now is abundantly rich and full. It is eternal, yet it begins immediately. Life

in Christ is lived on a higher plane because of his overflowing forgiveness, love, and guidance.

A hired hand tends the sheep for money, while the shepherd does it out of love. The shepherd owns the sheep and is committed to them. Jesus is not merely doing a job; he is committed to love us and even lay down his life for us. False teachers and false prophets do not have this commitment.

Sins will separate you from the love of God.

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Because God is holy, he cannot ignore, excuse, or tolerate sin as though it didn't matter. Sin cuts people off from him, forming a wall to isolate God from the people he loves.

No wonder this long list of wretched sins makes God angry and forces him to look the other way. People who die with their life of sin unforgiven separate themselves eternally from God.

God wants them to live with him forever, but he cannot take them into his holy presence unless their sin is removed.

Peter felt sorry for his sin.

Luke 22:62

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Peter wept bitterly, not only because he realized that he had denied his Lord, the Messiah, but also because he had turned away from a very dear friend, a person who had loved and taught him for three years.

Peter had said that he would *never* deny Christ, despite Jesus' prediction ([Mark 14:29-31](#); [Luke 22:33, 34](#)).

But when frightened, he went against all he had boldly promised. Unable to stand up for his Lord for even 12 hours, he had failed as a disciple and as a friend.

We need to be aware of our own breaking points and not become overconfident or self-sufficient. If we fail him, we must remember that Christ can use those who recognize their failure.

From this humiliating experience Peter learned much that would help him later when he assumed leadership of the young church.

Christ will also restore those who fall today.

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

John uses "dear children" in a warm, fatherly way. He is not talking down to his readers but is showing affection for them.

At this writing, John was a very old man. He had spent almost all his life in ministry, and many of his readers were indeed his spiritual children.

To people who are feeling guilty and condemned, John offers reassurance.

They know they have sinned, and Satan (called "the accuser" in [Revelation 12:10](#)) is demanding the death penalty.

When you feel weak, don't give up hope—the best defense attorney in the universe is pleading your case. Jesus Christ, your advocate, your defender, is the Judge's Son.

He has already suffered your penalty in your place. You can't be tried for a case that is no longer on the docket.

United with Christ, you are as safe as he is. Don't be afraid to ask Christ to plead your case—he has already won it (see [Romans 8:33, 34](#); [Hebrews 7:24, 25](#)).

Remember, the worldly fires can be amended.

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Although God and the devil are at war, we don't have to wait until the end to see who will win. God has *already* defeated Satan ([Revelation 12:10-12](#)). When Christ returns, the devil and all he stands for will be eliminated forever ([Revelation 20:10-15](#)).

Satan is here now, however, and he is trying to win us over to his evil cause. With the Holy Spirit's power, we can resist the devil, and he will flee from us. **4:7-10**

How can you come close to God?

James gives some ways:

***Humble yourselves before God* ([4:7](#)).**

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Yield to his authority and will, commit your life to him and his control, and be willing to follow him.

Wash your hands... and purify your hearts (that is, lead a pure life) ([4:8](#)).

James 4:8

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Be cleansed from sin, replacing your desire to sin with your desire to experience God's purity.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor ([4:10](#); [1 Peter 5:6](#)).

James 4:10

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Bowing in humility before the Lord means recognizing that our worth comes from God alone. To be humble involves leaning on his power and his guidance, and not going our own independent way. Although we do not deserve God's favor, he wants to lift us up and give us worth and dignity, despite our human shortcomings.

In Review:

Prior to Peter's denial of Jesus, while having his feet washed by the Savior, Christ said in Jn. 13:21 "**One of you will betray me...**"

*Peter's Reaction: "**I will lay my life down for thy sake...**" 13:37 KJV

*Jesus's Response: "**The cock shall not crow till thou hast denied me thrice...**" 13:38 KJV

Now here's my point, Jesus was indicating to Peter, it will not take something as significant as a thunderstorm to let him know when he has failed. But something as small as a rooster's crow to reveal to him his lost opportunity!

In John's record of Peter's denial of Jesus, he is asked "**Art not thou also one of this man's disciples...**" 18:17a & his answer each time was "**I am not...**" 18:17b

On the third time he denied he was affiliated with Jesus it happened, 18:27 "the cock crew..." and it was then and ONLY then Peter heard the rooster's voice!

Let us determine to never deny The Christ.

Prayer to salvation.

Lord God in heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus.

I acknowledge to you that I am a sinner, and

I am sorry for my sins and the life that I have lived;

I need your forgiveness.

I believe that your only begotten Son Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross at Calvary and died for my sins, and I am now willing to turn from my sin.

Your Holy Word declares in Romans 10:9 that if we confess the Lord our God and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, we shall be saved.

Right now I confess Jesus as the Lord of my soul. With my heart, I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead.

This very moment I accept Jesus Christ as my own personal Savior and according to His Word, right now I am saved. Amen

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

- New American Standard Bible
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Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print

