

Lesson 3 Confession – Contemplation – Meditation: God’s Omniscience

Introduction

When our prayers start with adoration, praise, and worship, we will then see our own sin and who we are in relationship to the Lord. God will lead in our prayer time to contemplation and meditation concerning our own life. This week we will study what the Word of God says concerning what we are to do about our sin. Part of the lesson will focus on God’s character, and what that can mean to us as we walk with Him.

Day 1

1. As we begin today, read through Psalm 139, a prayer of the Psalmist David and think about David’s relationship with God that is proclaimed in this prayer.

What are the attributes of God recorded in Psalm 139?	What is David’s response to God?

2. How would you summarize David’s attitude toward the Lord in this prayer?

3. How would you summarize what this prayer says about the character of God?

4. David repeats a significant verb in 139:1 and 139:23. Can you see the difference in David’s thinking in these two verses?

What do you learn from this that you could apply to your own life?

5. To help us understand this prayer of David's, let's look at the word studies below and continue to answer the question about the nature of God from these other Scriptures.

Strong's # and English Transliteration:	Definition of the word from Strong's Exhaustive Concordance:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
2713 Hebrew chaqar khaw-kar'	Search (NAS) to penetrate, hence, to examine intimately; find out, seek (out), sound, try.	Psalm 139:1,23 Psalm 44:20,21 (<i>find</i> in verse 21)
974 Hebrew bachan bakh'an	Try (trial) (NAS) to test (especially metals); generally and figuratively to investigate, examine, prove	Job 23:8-17 (<i>tried</i> in verse 10)
6090 Hebrew otseb o'tseb	Hurtful (NAS) {This definition will puzzle you.} An idol (as fashioned); also pain (bodily or mental): idol, sorrow, X wicked. (A variety of 6089, an earthen vessel; usually painful, toil, also a pang, whether of body or mind, grievous, idol, labor, sorrow).	Isaiah 14:1-3 (verse 3 painful)
5148 Hebrew nachah naw-khaw'	Lead (NAS) to guide, by implication to transport (into exile, or as colonists), bestow, bring, govern, put, straiten	Exodus 13:21,22 (lead)

6. Can you express the truths of God that this lesson has shown you? Trust Him with how He will use this information in your life. God gives us opportunities to share with the world who He is; watch for those opportunities.

7. Allow these truths to minister to your spirit. Would you read Psalm 139 through again and allow the Lord to make it your own prayer?

Is there something in this prayer that is difficult for you to agree with? Will you allow the Lord to help you with that struggle as we focus our hearts and our minds on this topic of prayer in the coming weeks?

Days 2 and 3

1. We will continue our study of confession as an element of prayer by looking at the circumstances in the life of David which led to his prayer of Psalm 51. Some of David's Psalms were written after times of victory and some after times of trial. Psalm 51 specifically followed a time of darkness in David's life. We will begin by reading 2 Samuel 11.

During the reign of David, the nation of Israel was under the Law that the Lord God delivered through the Ten Commandments to Moses. As you read 2 Samuel 11 record what David did wrong, as well as which of the Ten Commandments were violated.

The sins David committed as recorded in 2 Samuel 11:	Which of the Ten Commandments did David violate?
	Exodus 20:1-17

2. The passage following shows that the prophet Nathan spoke the word of the Lord to David. As you read 2 Samuel 12:1-25 pay attention to *God's response to David's sin*. Look at the Scripture listed below to see the consequence of David's sin and how that was later confirmed in Scripture.

The consequence of David's sin:	How was this confirmed in Scripture?
2 Samuel 12:10	2 Samuel 13:28
2 Samuel 12:11,12	2 Samuel 16:21
2 Samuel 12:14	2 Samuel 12:18

3. What do 2 Samuel 11 and 12 tell you about the nature of God? Can you worship Him as you answer this question, trusting Him with the questions this brings up in your mind?

4. We will now read David’s prayer in Psalm 51. Read it through the first time as a prayer unto the Lord. Read the Psalm through again, this time to see David’s response to his sin, as you answer the questions on the chart below. Is there a portion of the prayer that you struggle to agree with? Ask God to help you see Him accurately as you study this prayer of David’s. Guard your heart from doing this part of the lesson mechanically, truly let these words minister to your spirit.

What did David ask of God and what did David promise would be the results?	How did David describe God?	How did David describe himself?

5. Before we conclude this look into David's prayer of Psalm 51, let's study some of the words David used so that we might understand his heart more clearly. As you read the cross-references below, continue in your search for the description of the nature of God.

Strong's # and English Transliteration:	Definition of the word from <i>Strong's Exhaustive Concordance</i>:	Use of the word in Scriptures:
2603 Hebrew chanan khaw-nan'	Gracious (NAS) to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior, to favor, bestow...(be) merciful, have pity upon, pray, make supplication.	(51:1) Isaiah 30:18, 19
7356 Hebrew racham rakh'am	Compassion (NAS) by extension, the womb (as cherishing the fetus)...tender love, (great, tender) mercy, pity.	(51:1) 2 Samuel 24:10-25 (verse 14, mercies) This followed David's sin of numbering the people contrary to God's command. How does this passage demonstrate God's mercy?
6663 Hebrew tsadaq tsaw-dak'	Justified (NAS) to be right, cleanse, clear self...(be, turn to) righteous (ness).	(51:4) Psalm 19:9-11
3526 Hebrew kabac kaw-bas'	Wash (NAS) to trample, to wash (by stamping with the feet). {Referring to washing clothes and all but one of the uses refer to ceremonial cleanness.} ¹	(51:2) Jeremiah 2:22
5352 Hebrew naqah naw-kaw'	Cleanse (NAS) to be (or make) clean, by implication to be bare, acquit...to be blameless...be free.	(51:2) "The original sense was probably "to empty out." The derived idea of "clean" eventually took on a judicial flavor. Most of the occurrences have a moral connotation associated with them." ²
2398 Hebrew chata khaw-taw'	Purify (NAS) properly to miss, to sin...to forfeit, lack, expiate, repent...purify (self).	(51:7) The root of this word occurs 580 times in the O. T.
2891 Hebrew taher taw-hare'	Clean (NAS) to be bright, to be pure, (physically sound, clear, unadulterated; Levitically uncontaminated, morally innocent or holy).	(51:7) Numbers 19:11-22 (esp. verses 12, 19) Note how this relates to the word for <i>wash</i> above.
7725 Hebrew shuwb shoob	Restore (NAS) to turn back, generally to retreat...return, recover.	(51:12) Zechariah 1:3,4 (return in NAS)

□ Spiros Zodhiates, The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible-NAS^{??}Version, Chattanooga, AMG Pub., 1990, p. 1734.

□ *Ibid.*, p. 1752.

5337 Hebrew natsal naw-tsal'	Deliver (NAS) to snatch away, whether in a good or a bad sense...defend...escape...preserve , rescue.	(51:14) Psalm 79:8,9
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6. As a review, we will think about David’s prayer of Psalm 51. What were David’s expectations as he prayed before the Lord?

7. How will the Lord use these truths of David’s life in your own life? Is there a verse that you should commit to memory, to help you remember this passage? Write it out here and begin the process.

Is there something in this lesson that the Lord would have you share with someone else?

Day 4

1. Today we will be looking at another of the prayers of King David that relate to our topic of confession as a type of prayer. Many theologians believe that Psalm 32 was written after Psalm 51. Read through Psalm 32, which is a prayer offered unto the Lord.

As you read you will sometimes see the Hebrew word *Selah*, as it “occurs a number of times in the Psalms. It was a musical or liturgical sign, the meaning of which is not entirely understood today. Some regard it as a pause in the music to mark a transition in the theme or composition. It seems to have no grammatical connection with the sentence after which it appears. Therefore, it was not an integral part of each psalm. It was probably a note to the singers of the psalms or perhaps to those who were accompanying the singers with instruments.”³

Read through Psalm 32 again, this time reading to see the relationship David had with the Lord God. A break in the Psalm takes place between verses 7 and 8. There are several opinions about the ending of this Psalm. Some see the last four verses as words spoken to David from the Lord. Another perspective is that David is teaching concerning God at the end of his prayer. Either way, continue to look at the relationship David had with God, and record that below.

David’s relationship with the Lord God:

2. Psalm 32 contains a number of key words that will help us understand this prayer better. As you read the other references, continue in your search for who God is and how He relates to us. The word for prayer in Psalm 32:6 is the same word we studied in Lesson 1, page 12, *palai*. *The last three spaces that are empty provide a place for you to look up any words you would like clarification on for yourself.*

Strong's # and English Transliteration:	Definition of the word from <i>Strong's Exhaustive Concordance</i> :	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
835 Hebrew esher eh'sher	Blessed (NAS) happiness, as an interjection how happy!	(32:1) Job 5:17 (This seems to tie into James 1:2,3)
5375 Hebrew nacah naw-saw'	Forgiven (NAS) to lift, in a great variety of applications, take (away, up), obtain, pardon...	(32:1,5) Exodus 34:6,7 (verse 7 forgive)
3680 Hebrew kakah kaw-saw'	Covered (NAS) to plump, to fill up hollows, to cover by clothing or secrecy...	(32:1) Psalm 103:12 (removed in NAS)
3045 Hebrew yada yaw-dah'	Acknowledged (NAS) to know, to ascertain by seeing, observation, care, recognition...	(32:5) Genesis 18:19 (know in NAS)
3034 Hebrew yadah yaw-daw'	Confess (NAS) especially to revere or worship (with extended hands);...confess, praise, thankful.	(32:5) See page 19, Lesson 2 as this is one of the words that we looked at which is used for <i>praise</i> .
2623 Hebrew chacyd khaw-seed'	Godly (NAS) kind, religiously, pious (a saint), holy (one), merciful.	(32:6) Psalm 4:1-4 (verse 3)
5643 Hebrew cether say'ther	HIDING PLACE (NAS) A COVER (IN A GOOD OR A BAD SENSE), DISGUISE, PROTECTION, SECRET PLACE.	(32:7) Psalm 119:114
5341 Hebrew natsar naw-tsar'	PRESERVE (NAS) TO GUARD IN A GOOD SENSE (TO PROTECT, MAINTAIN OBEY)...KEEP.	(32:7) Psalm 25:10 (keep)
6405 Hebrew pallet pal-late'	DELIVERANCE (NAS) ESCAPE.	(32:7) The only place this word is used, but its root <i>deliver</i> is in Psalm 71:4 (rescue in NAS)

3. What was the result of David's confession?

4. What is required of us according to Psalm 32?

5. What is the command David gives to others in Psalm 32:6? Will you follow that command?

6. According to Psalm 32, what did David say God would do to help us?

7. Do you see the connection David made between confession and forgiveness? (We will study this more on Day 5 this week, as we look at the New Testament teaching on confession.)

8. What does the Lord want you to do with the prayer we studied today? Will you bow before Him and ask Him?

Will you be obedient to His leading?

Day 5

1. Before we look at New Testament teaching on confession, we will take a quick look at a prayer of Nehemiah, in Nehemiah 1:4-11. Begin with verse 1 to see the context of his prayer, and as a means of observation, think about several of the "5 W's and an H" questions for this passage.

Where was Nehemiah?

What reference to time is made here?

Why did Nehemiah offer up this prayer?

What did Nehemiah ask for?

Why did he ask for this?

2. How would you describe Nehemiah’s heart attitude as he prayed?

3. Now we will look at how Nehemiah’s prayer was answered in Nehemiah 2. Have you ever prayed that you or someone else would find favor before an individual?

4. When we read the prayers of David, we saw him admitting his sin before God. What is the difference in Nehemiah’s prayer concerning confession?

5. We will now turn to the New Testament to study what was taught concerning confession by Christ and his disciples. We will begin with Christ’s words in Luke 12:8-12.

What are we to confess?	What is the promise Christ made concerning confession?

6. Continuing with the teaching about confession, look at the definitions below and as you read the other Scriptures, ask yourself *what are we as believers to confess and when?* As you look at these verses, find the result or consequence of our confession and mark that as part of your answer.

Strong’s # and English Transliteration:	Definition of the word from <i>Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance</i> :	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
1843 Greek exomologeō ex-om-ol-og-eh’ō	Confess (NAS) to acknowledge or by assent, to agree fully, profess, promise. (The prefix <i>ex</i> means “out of,” as to externalize what’s inside oneself).	Philippians 2:11 James 5:15,16
3670 Greek homologeō hom-ol-og-eh’ō	Confess (NAS) to assent, i.e. covenant, acknowledge, give thanks, promise. (The prefix <i>homo</i> means together).	Luke 12:8,9 Romans 10:9,10 1 John 1:9

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7. It might be really easy to begin our prayer time lifting praise and adoration unto the Lord and then petitioning God with our requests, skipping over a time of confession. We can't rush through this type of prayer when we spend time alone with the Lord God Almighty. Remember David's plea before God in Psalm 139:23,24? Will you echo that prayer daily? How can you bring yourself to a place where you see yourself accurately and acknowledge and agree with God concerning those areas of your life where you have sinned and are vulnerable to sin?

8. Remember Hebrews 4:12,13? Read these verses to remind yourself of God's truths. As you read these verses can you make them into a prayer, expressing your heart before God?

How is the Word of God described?	How is the character of God described?

9. Another important truth to remember regarding this issue is to acknowledge the role of the Holy Spirit. Let these words of Christ speak His peace to you, from John 16:5-15.

Who is the Holy Spirit?	What role does the Holy Spirit have concerning our confession of sin?

10. When the enemy of your soul tries to discourage you because of your past sin, you need to stand firm against his scheme. We will end with some profound truths to help you when you are feeling condemned. Romans 8:1 proclaims that there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Once we confess, God forgives. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness.

As Christians what are we to do when we feel defeated by our past?
 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Ephesians 6:12-18



