

QUIETING
A NOISY SOUL
JIM BERG

Part Three: The Way Out

Session 13

Clearing Your Conscience with God

“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight...Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

Psalms 51:1-4, 7

A. Reject the _____...

1. That we can disobey God without _____—*“You will surely not die.”*
 - ☞ Galatians 6:7-8; Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 59:1-15
2. That we can _____ without repentance—*“contrite heart”*; *“God is opposed to the proud.”*
 - a. God grants forgiveness and grace (divine help) only to the _____ and contrite heart.
 - ☞ Psalm 51:17; I Peter 5:5
 - b. Consider the lesson of Naaman: he had to humble himself before getting any relief from his affliction (II Kings 5).

B. Admit the _____...

1. That we are guilty of _____.
 - a. We have forsaken God and His ways and have engineered our own schemes for handling life. This rejection of the truth is a flight into fantasy—unbelief.
 - ☞ Isaiah 53:6; 55:7-9; Jeremiah 2:13
 - b. We are also guilty of minimizing, covering, blame-shifting, and excuse-making.
2. That we need a _____ for cleansing.
 - ☞ Psalm 51:2, 7; Hebrews 9:22; I John 1:7
 - ☞ Our efforts cannot purge our conscience and silence its noise, according to Hebrews 9:12-14.

C. Apply the _____...

1. That Christ died for _____.
 - ☞ Romans 5:8; I Peter 2:24; 3:18
2. That God delights to _____ sinners who _____.
 - ☞ I John 1:9; I John 2:1-2

D. Walk in the _____...

- ☞ Of our forgiveness.
- 1. “I don’t feel forgiven.”
 - ☞ It is the fact of God’s complete forgiveness that matters. The more you meditate upon what He has done and the kind of God He is, the more joy you will know (II Peter 1:2).
- 2. “I don’t see how God can forgive what I’ve done.”
 - ☞ His infinite blood sacrifice cleanses from *“all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).*
- 3. “I’ll just keep failing anyway. What’s the use of asking forgiveness all the time?”
 - ☞ This is your _____ speaking. God knows you are going to fail and has made His forgiveness available every time.
 - ☞ Continual failure with no improvement shows a need for something else—perhaps more _____ to spiritual authority in your life, greater personal discipline to be in the Word more or on your knees more, and so forth (Psalm 119:9-11).
 - ☞ It may be that you are being stubborn in some other area of your life. Perhaps you are unwilling to release some area of your life to His control—perhaps your entertainment, your choice of friends, your use of time, your personal ambitions, and so forth. *“God [fights against] the [stubborn], but gives grace to the humble.” (I Peter 5:5).*

CONCLUSION: The loudest noises in the soul are the agitations of a guilty conscience. “The Way Out” starts with confession and cleansing so that we can have *“a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men” (Acts 24:16).*

Your soul is not supposed to be at _____ when it is at _____ with God. Isaiah 57:20-21 says, *“But the wicked are like the tossing sea, for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up refuse and mud. ‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked.’”*