



# immanuel institute

## Prayer: Week Two

### David: How to Confess Sin

JC Ryle, *Do You Pray*

Stanley Gale, *Why Do We Pray*

### Introduction

“All of us have questions about prayer. Why pray is God already knows what we’re going to say? Why pray if God has already ordained all that comes to pass? Wouldn’t what we prayed for have happened anyway? Can prayer change the mind of God? Why do we need to pray for something more than once. These and other questions call for biblically informed answers in keeping with the whole counsel of God on the topic ... Prayer is simply conversing with God, the privilege of a restored, reconciled relationship with the living God through Jesus Christ. It is the voice of a child to the Father, of a subject to the King. The golden scepter of access is extended to us through Christ, welcoming us into the very throne room of grace. But prayer is more than a privilege. It comes to us also as a responsibility, something commanded by God, a requirement of discipleship.” (Stanley Gale, *Why Do We Pray*)

### Prayer as a Response

- The two foundational spiritual disciplines are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - In Bible intake, God \_\_\_\_\_ to us through his Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 2:20-21 ... Acts 2:16, 28:25 ... Psalm 19:1-6, 7-11).
  - In prayer, we \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s gracious self-revelation (Psalm 19:12-14. Psalm 119).
  - In our communication with God, we should be quick to \_\_\_\_\_ and slow to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ecclesiastes 5:1-3).

“It’s fitting that the Bible ends with a prayer and an amen. The book of Revelation is an unveiling of truth God gave the apostle John. And when that unveiling was complete, John responded to God’s revelation with prayer. This is the essence of prayer. It has always and must always be this way. First God speaks, then we respond in prayer. And until God speaks, we have nothing meaningful to say. So it is right that the Bible ends with prayer. It is fitting that the story of God’s relationship with humanity, a story that has been supernaturally revealed to us, ends with one of us responding in prayer.” (Landon Coleman, *Pray Better*, Chapter 20: John Prays a Final Prayer)

### **David: How to Confess Sin**

“Two names are unforgettably linked with David ... One name is the giant Goliath; the other is the woman Bathsheba. The physical forms attached to the names could hardly be more different; Goliath – an ugly, cruel giant; Bathsheba – a beautiful, gentle woman. Goliath, an evil tyrant; Bathsheba, an innocent victim. But different as Goliath and Bathsheba are in character, appearance, and spirit, there’s a similarity in their relation to David. Both bring him to a field of testing, a place of encounter that reveals David’s heart.” (Eugene Peterson, *Leap Over a Wall*)

- David’s fall into sin started long \_\_\_\_\_ his affair with Bathsheba.
  - David was guilty of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Samuel 18:27, 25:42-44, 2 Samuel 3:2-5, 5:13-14).
  - David was guilty of \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Samuel 11:1 ... 2 Samuel 10:7, 21:17).
  - David was guilty of \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Samuel 11:2-3 ... Matthew 5:27-30).
- David’s sin with Bathsheba quickly spiraled \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 Samuel 11:4-27a).

“The Bible never flatters its heroes. All the men and women of Scripture have feet of clay, and when the Holy Spirit paints a portrait of their lives, He’s a very realistic artist. He doesn’t ignore, deny, or overlook the dark side.” (Charles Swindoll, *David*)

- David sinned against \_\_\_\_\_, his \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, his \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - You can pick your sin, but you don't get to pick the \_\_\_\_\_ of your sin.
  - One sin never \_\_\_\_\_ a previous sin.
- David's sin \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD, and the LORD sent \_\_\_\_\_ to confront David (2 Samuel 11:27b-12:15).
    - Nathan had an established relationship with David (2 Samuel 7:1-5).
    - Nathan confronted David after God allowed him to \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 32:3-4).
    - Nathan confronted David with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- David \_\_\_\_\_ his sin, and the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ his sin (2 Samuel 11:13, Psalm 51:1-19).
    - David recognized that all sin is offensive to \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 51:3).
    - David described his sin as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 51:1-2, 32:1-2).
    - God's \_\_\_\_\_ was immediate and without \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Samuel 11:13, Psalm 32).

“David’s confession came with immediacy, without denial, and without excuse; the Lord’s forgiveness was equally direct and unrestrained. It also was without cost: forgiveness was granted the king without requiring him first to make animal sacrifices or give great gifts to the Lord.” (Robert Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*) ...

### Application

- Sin is always \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives, we must put it to \_\_\_\_\_, and we must be quick to \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 4:7, Romans 8:13, 2 Samuel 11:13).

“The real question for us all is: Are we prepared to face sin? Not to discuss someone else’s sin, but to face our own.” (Alan Redpath, *The Making of a Man of God*)

“This is the gospel focus: *you* are the man; *you* are the woman. The gospel is never about somebody else; it’s always about you, about me. The gospel is never a truth in general; it’s always a truth in specific. The gospel is never a commentary on ideas or culture or conditions; it’s always about actual persons, actual pain, actual trouble, actual sin: you, me; who you are and what you’ve done; who I am and what I’ve done.” (Eugene Peterson, *Leap Over a Wall*)

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God moves us to confession (Psalm 19:12-14, Romans 7:7-12).
- A \_\_\_\_\_ had to be made in order for the guilty to be counted righteous (Psalm 51:7, John 1:29, Romans 3:21-26).
- Because of the finished work of Jesus, God is able to \_\_\_\_\_ the worst of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15, 1 John 1:9 ... Psalm 51:13, 32:1-11).
- *Other Prayers of Confession in the Bible*
  - *Daniel Confesses His Sin and Israel’s Sin (Daniel 9)*
  - *Nehemiah Leads a Prayer of Repentance (Nehemiah 9)*
  - *The Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)*
  - *The Sinner’s Prayer (Luke 18:9-14)*