

# Prayer – R. C. Sproul

## Q&A – Week 3 - Confession

Opening devotions: Ps. 51:1-7/prayer

Questions/thoughts?

1. What does it mean to “keep short accounts” with God?
  - Do we keep short accounts with others?
2. What is the difference between attrition and contrition?
  - Do our prayers of confession lean toward one or the other?
3. Who does David blame for his sin?
4. In what 2 ways did David confess he was a sinner? Explain
  - Actual sin
  - Original sin
5. Who only did David admit sinning against? Why?
6. What kind of sacrifices does God desire (see Ps. 51:17)?
7. What did David do when his infant son died (II Sam. 12:20)?

Thoughts to ponder

- *The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works. Augustine*
- *Prayer in the sense of petition, asking for things, is a small part of it; confession and penitence are its threshold, adoration its sanctuary, the presence and vision and enjoyment of God its bread and wine. C.S. Lewis*
- *We are sometimes repentant because of the harm we have done ourselves and others in our transgressions but there is little repentance toward God... We may regret what our sins do to our testimony and the evil effect on others but we are little concerned because the fellowship with God is broken. This makes for shallow and inadequate confession because we have not touched the heart of the trouble. Vance Havner*
- *To confess your sins to God is not to tell [God] anything [God] doesn't already know. Until you confess them, however, they are the abyss between you. When you confess them, they become the bridge. Frederick Beuchner*

Closing prayer