



COME CLEAN

by Vincent M. Newfield

Ever felt like something was separating you from fellowship with the Father? Like something was clouding your spiritual vision and clogging your spiritual ears? I've been there more times than I can count. What is it? Many times it's just plain old unconfessed sin.

Listen now! The Lord isn't too weak to save you. And he isn't getting deaf! He can hear you when you call! But the trouble is that *your sins have cut you off from God*. Because of sin he has turned his face away from you and will not listen anymore.

—Isaiah 59:1,2 TLB

Now you may be thinking, *How can sin be separating me from God? I repented of my sins when I invited Jesus into my heart. God forgave me and washed me clean then and there, right?* Yes, He did, and there's nothing like that fresh feeling of first receiving God's forgiveness. But repentance is where the cleaning begins. *Confession of sin* is how the cleaning continues.

The truth is, you and I are in constant contact with the sinful world around us. As a result, we often see and hear things on the Internet, at work, in movies and music that defile us. No matter how good we are, we all make mistakes—we all have areas where we fall into sin and need to grow. When we sin, we get *dirty*. To get clean again, we must confess our sins to God and ask Him to forgive us. I call it a *spiritual bath*.

I don't know about you but when I work outside all day, I get dirty and I give off an odor. Similarly, when we're dirty spiritually, we give off an odor—a smell that *repels* the Lord and *attracts* the enemy. Just as flies are drawn to dirty rotten garbage in a landfill, Satan—AKA “Lord of the flies”—is drawn to us when we've not cleansed ourselves spiritually. Think about it. A person who hasn't taken a bath in days stinks. When we fail to regularly confess our sins, we stink spiritually. Many Christians are living stinkin' lives and it's because they haven't *come clean* with God.

So how can we have that fresh feeling of forgiveness again? We need to take a spiritual bath and come clean with God. What's the first thing you do before taking a bath? You *uncover* yourself—you remove everything on the surface to clean yourself properly. Likewise, when you take a spiritual bath, you bare yourself openly before the Lord, humbly confessing your sins and hiding nothing from Him (see Hebrews 4:13).

Next, you wet yourself with water. Spiritually speaking, the water is the *Word of God*. Confessing sin begins with confessing the Word: “Father, I don't deserve to come before You, but You said to confidently come before Your throne for mercy and grace (see Hebrews 4:16). You said if I confess my sins, You will faithfully cleanse me (see 1 John 1:9). That's why I am here.”

Now you're ready to lather up the sponge with soap. Spiritually, the soap is simply the precious *blood of Jesus*. The timeless tune says it well: “What can wash away my sin? **Nothing** but the blood of Jesus.” The sponge represents the *Holy Spirit*. He's the only One who can scrub your soul just right and reach those hard to reach places.

What's next? Again, you apply the water of the Word. “Father, thank You for forgiving me as You promised. Thank You that there's no condemnation toward me because I'm in Christ and following after Your Spirit (Romans 8:1). You didn't send Jesus into my life to condemn me, but to save me (John 3:17).” Realize, if you don't rinse, you end up drying off and getting dressed with soap and dirt still on you. This symbolizes how

the enemy often tries to make our sins stick to us through *guilt* and *condemnation*. Rinsing with the Word removes this residue.

Now you're ready to get dressed—but not in the dirty clothes you were wearing before your bath. You put on *clean* clothes. This represents the *robe of righteousness* God has reserved for you (see Isaiah 61:10). Through faith in Jesus, you are clothed in and become the righteousness of God (see 2 Corinthians 5:21).

So, if you feel like something is separating you from fellowship with the Father or your life stinks and you don't know why, maybe all you need is a good bath. *Come clean* with God and get that fresh feeling of forgiveness all over again!

Take the Next Step -----

-----**GET CLEAN** Isaiah 1:16 ♦ 2 Corinthians 7:1 ♦ James 4:8 ♦ 1 John 3:3 **THE WATER** Ephesians 5:26 ♦ John 17:17

THE SOAP Hebrews 9:14, 22 ♦ 1 John 1:7 **THE SPONGE** Philippians 2:13 ♦ 1 Thessalonians 5:23,24 ♦ 1 John 1:9

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