

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for March 20, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler | *Dethroning Idols: Pathways of Repentance—Confession: Darkness Exposed*

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- What is one specific thought, attitude, or action you can remember from last week that needs to be brought into the light so that you can agree with God about a need for change?
- Do you have a person/group with whom you can share your spiritual "junk?" If so, thank God for that! If not, ask God to lead you to a person/group to help in that way.
- What kind of counterfeit confession are you most prone to: deceptive half-truths, minimizing justification, or blame-shifting?
- Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude for the fact that the effectiveness of our confession is not based on our ability to feel sorry enough or apologetic in the perfect way, but on God's own faithfulness and justice.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Leviticus 5:1-6** | What does this passage teach us about the link between conviction (realization) and confession? Do you think there is a "statute of limitations" on our need to confess sin when it becomes realized?
- **Psalms 32:1-5** | How does this passage describe the feeling of keeping silent about sin that needs to be confessed? Have you felt that way before?
- **James 4:17** | Do you think most Christians deal with this kind of sin in their confession? Do you? Why or why not?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

March Practice: Submission | Neighbors (from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 122)

- Submission and service function concurrently. Hence, much of the practical outflow of submission will come in the next month (service). There are, however, seven acts of submission that we should draw attention to. There will be one or two mentioned each week in the month of March.
- The fourth act of submission is to our neighbors and those we meet in the course of our daily lives. The life of simple goodness is lived before them. If they are in need, we help them. We perform small acts of kindness and ordinary neighborliness: sharing our food, baby-sitting their children, mowing their lawn, visiting over important and unimportant matters, sharing our tools. No task is too small, too trifling, for each one is an opportunity to live in submission.