

# **Keys To Successful Living.**

Part Seven-dated 27/9/15

**Reading: Hebrews 10:23** *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

In our series on “keys to successful living, we have reached to the 7<sup>th</sup> key being found in Hebrews 10:23 and is: LET US HOLD FAST OUR CONFESSION WITHOUT WAVERING.

If ever we feel that we have lost sight of God and if evil seems to be winning in our life then the answer lies in this key and we have to take a special note of this all-important 7<sup>th</sup> key. But, let us remind ourselves of the first six keys:

1. Let us fear
2. Let us be diligent
3. Let us hold fast our confession
4. Let us draw near to the throne of grace.
5. Let us press on to maturity
6. Let us draw near to the Most Holy Place.

Before we go any further, let us review what we had learned about the **confession.**

**First**, confession means “saying the same as God says”. Confession is something we believe. It is testifying to something we know. It is witnessing for a truth that we have embraced. So, confessing our faith, then, is saying the same with our mouth what God says in His Word. It means, making our words agree with the written word of God at every point and in every situation. Whenever the word “confession” is used/mentioned, we instinctively think of sin & failure. This is the negative side. It has its importance and place, of course, BUT there is a positive side and the Bible has more to say about the positive than the negative confession. Generally, as we advance in the spiritual life, our confession comes closer to being in complete agreement with the Word of God in every area of our life. Our right confession should center around five things:

- (1) What God in Christ has wrought(made in a specific way) for us in His plan of redemption.
- (2) What God, through the Word and the Holy Spirit, has wrought (specifically made) in us in the new birth and the filling of the Holy Spirit.
- (3) What we are to God the Father in Christ Jesus.
- (4) What Jesus is doing for us now at the right hand of the Father, where He intercedes for us.
- (5) What God can do through us, or what His Word can do through our lips.

**Second**, it is through our confession that we are linked to Jesus as our High Priest. One of the main themes of Hebrews is that Jesus is our High Priest in heaven.

## **Christ, the High Priest**

- Appointed and called by God [Heb 3:1-2](#), [Heb 5:4-5](#)
- After the order of Melchizedek [Psalms 110:4](#), [Heb 5:6](#)  
[Heb 6:20](#), [Heb 7:15](#), [Heb 7:17](#)
- Superior to Aaron and the Levitical priests [Heb 7:11](#)  
[Heb 7:16](#), [Heb 7:22](#), [Heb 8:1-2](#), [Heb 8:6](#)
- Consecrated with an oath [Heb 7:20-21](#)
- Has an unchangeable priesthood [Heb 7:23](#), [Heb 7:28](#)

- Is of unblemished purity [Heb 7:26](#), [Heb 7:28](#)
- Faithful [Heb 3:2](#)
- Needed no sacrifice for himself [Heb 7:27](#)
- Offered himself a sacrifice [Heb 9:14](#), [Heb 9:26](#)
- His sacrifice superior to all others [Heb 9:13-14](#), [Heb 9:23](#)
- Offered sacrifice but once [Heb 7:27](#), [Heb 9:25-26](#)
- Made reconciliation [Heb 2:17](#)
- Obtained redemption for us [Heb 9:12](#)
- Entered into heaven [Heb 4:14](#), [Heb 10:12](#)
- Sympathizes with those who are tempted [Heb 2:18](#), [Heb 4:15](#)
- Intercedes [Heb 7:25](#), [Heb 9:24](#)
- Blesses [Num 6:23-26](#), [Acts 3:26](#)
- On his throne [Zech 6:13](#)

He is there on our behalf in the presence of God the Father—to represent us, to present our petitions, to intercede on our behalf and to make good every right confession that we make. This is brought out in Hebrews 3:1 “*Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession*”.

In other words, OUR CONFESSION **engages** Jesus to help us as our High Priest. If we make the right confession, Jesus is **obligated** in His eternal faithfulness to see that the confession is made good. If we FAIL to make the right confession OR if we make NO confession at all, we silence the lips of our High Priest—we give Him no opportunity to minister as High Priest on our behalf. **Therefore**, we can see that there is tremendous importance in **confession** and we have to put it in our spirits as the secrets of receiving the blessings of God through Jesus from heavenly places

### **THE SEQUENCE OF CONFESSING.**

There is much to learn from the way this theme of confession is built up in the epistle to the Hebrews.

First, in Hebrews 3:1 we are admonished (reprimanded/urged/warned seriously) to make the right confession: Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. Then, we remember the related key(3<sup>rd</sup>) we studied in Hebrews 4:14 “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession”. Notice that in speaking of Jesus as our High Priest, Scripture immediately goes on to emphasize our confession—why? Because our confession provides an opportunity for Jesus to engage Himself to **minister** on our behalf as our High Priest.

In fact, we are admonished/urged to “hold fast” our confession. We must not change what we have said. We have to keep making the words of our mouths agree with the Word of God.

Thus, we come to the next step in this sequence, the 7<sup>th</sup> key: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering” Notice the two added words *without wavering*. If we look through these passages of Hebrews in correct order, we see that in respect of our confession, there are THREE successive stages:

1<sup>st</sup> we make the confession, 2<sup>nd</sup> having made it, we hold fast- we do not change, 3<sup>rd</sup> we hold it without wavering. Why do you think *without wavering* is put in? What does it imply? The reason in my understanding is, that when we make the right confession, we are going to encounter negative forces and pressures that will come against us. Even though we have made the right confession and are holding it fast, there may come a time when the pressure increases. At that time, it may seem that all the forces of Satan and all the forces of darkness are turned loose against us, tempting us to let go of our confession.

### **The Right Response.**

This is the very point at which the writer of Hebrews tells us, “Don’t let go, Hold fast—without wavering”. The darker the situation or greater the problem and stronger the pressure—the more important it is for us to hold fast without wavering. Why? Because “He who promised is faithful”(Hebrews 10:23).

We may feel that God is behind the clouds, out of sight and we may have no idea what He is doing BUT the Scripture says “He is faithful”. Whether we understand or not, He is faithful. He is committed to His Word and He is our High Priest. If we hold fast our confession without wavering, He will do His job. Apostle Paul in 2Cor 5:7 tells us that “We walk by faith, not by sight”. Clearly, we can see that there is **opposition** between faith and sight. The natural man walks by sight—he trusts his senses and believes only what his senses tell him. But in our spiritual lives as Christians, we should not trust our senses we should walk by faith. Faith relates us to an unseen, eternal realm where reality does not change. The world of senses is always changing—it is temporary, unstable and unreliable. Through faith we relate to a different world—a world of eternal realities and eternal truths. As we relate to that world by faith, we go through the experience and practice of holding fast our confession without wavering.

The pressure God permits to come into our lives determine whether we are trusting our senses or our faith. If we change our confession because of the circumstances, then we are going by our senses and not by faith. For faith, there is no darkness. Faith sees with an inner spiritual eye into a realm that does not change. Faith gazes upon a High Priest who is reliable and constant.

### **The Example of Abraham.**

In connection with this principle of making & holding the right confession without wavering, look for a moment at the example of Abraham as he is portrayed in Romans 4 verses 19-22. This is what Paul says about Abraham:

*Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old— and that Sarah’s womb was also dead.(20) Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promises of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,(21) being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. (22) This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

We see from this example that real faith faces facts. Any attitude that is not willing to look at the real facts is not real faith. Abraham did not try to deceive himself or picture the situation differently from what it was. With his senses he saw that his body and Sarah’s womb were as good as dead BUT then he decided not to trust only in his senses. Abraham is called “the father of all who believe”(Rom 4:11), and we are exhorted (strongly urged to do) to follow in his steps of faith- we are required to walk that same path of faith. HOW?

By holding on to the promises of God, by making our right confessions and then holding fast our confessions without wavering. We are not to be deterred by what our senses reveal BUT look beyond the senses and the seen things INTO the unseen realm—to see by faith, our faithful High Priest, there at God’s right hand.

**Don’t Be Double-Minded.**

In this connection, we need to listen to what James says in his epistle. Many Christians fail at this point. They make a confession; they hold it fast BUT when the pressures build up, they do not hold it fast without wavering. Lets read James 1:6-8

*“But when {a believer} asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does”.*

This is a person who wavers: a person who starts to ask, starts to pray or starts to believe—but who does not hold fast without wavering. This person is tossed to and fro, blown about by the winds and the waves. Scripture says more or less in a warning style “that man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord”.

Remember! We are not doubters, we are believers. We can stop talking the devil’s language of doubt and fear and can start talking God’s language of faith. Our God is a faith God, we are faith children of a faith God. Positive Scriptural confession increases faith. There is no faith without confession. Our minds have to be renewed by God’s Word Believing, Thinking, Saying—all three go together. God has given us His Word to get our thinking straightened out. We can think in line with God’s Word

By wavering we can forfeit our blessings and lose the benefit of Christ’s ministry on our behalf as our High Priest.....So what is the remedy? “Let us hold fast our confession without wavering.—May God help us to do that.....Amen.

**Some of our confessions can be:**