

Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



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Confess!

Confession—either of sin or of Christ—requires that we align our hearts and our tongues with the *truth* of an external reality. That’s not easy to do.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn. 1:9).

“By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God” (1 Jn. 4:2).



A standard component in most spy flicks is the forced confession—information extracted from a captured enemy under duress. Whether secret war plans, the names of fellow collaborators, or an admission of guilt, valuable information is slowly drawn out of the captive using brutal interrogation techniques.

Of course, in some of these scenarios the “confession” thus obtained may not be worth much. The captive might divulge only *false* information, thus protecting his secret; or he may *falsely* confess to a deed he did not commit, just to avoid further pain. Either way, the confession does not align with an external reality; it does not conform to truth. That disconnect between the *statement* and the *reality* renders the confession bogus.

This idea of a confession being tied to—and based upon—an independent truth is a major theme in the New Testament. The Greek word that is translated “confess” in the New Testament is a compound word (*homologeō*), meaning “to speak the same thing.” Not just “to speak,” but to speak *the same thing*. The same as what? The same as whatever reality that is the subject of the statement. To confess something in the biblical definition, therefore, is to *commit oneself to the truth of a proposition*.

Two propositions loom large in the New Testament concept of confession, both addressed by John in his first epistle: The first is the truth regarding our sinful condition; the second is the truth concerning the person and work of Jesus Christ.

We must *confess the truth about our sins*. That is, we must own up to our mistakes, our failures, our weaknesses, our character flaws. That’s not easy to do. We would much rather obfuscate the fact of our deficiency by blaming others, or glossing over the seriousness of our failings, or covering them up with good

deeds. When we resort to these tactics, we are not confessing the truth about our condition; we are denying it.

We must also *confess the truth about Jesus Christ*. This is not merely accepting intellectually that He lived, or that He was a good man. It is a bold move to declare that we believe He was the Son of God, was bodily resurrected from the dead, and reigns as our Lord and King. These truths are denied in many circles today. But if we *believe* them, we must openly *confess* them.

If we wish to get right with God, we must “speak the same thing” regarding both of these propositions. One confession prepares our heart to see the need for a Savior; the other prepares our heart to embrace and follow Him.

But our confessions bear one distinct difference from those in the spy movies: They are not coerced. No one can pressure us to confess either our sins or our faith in Christ (and if we are forced in any way to make either confession, it’s not valid). God wants only those people who will embrace these truths of their own free will.

– David King