

You are invited to attend this year's SILVER DAWNS BIBLE STUDY. For many years, Pastor Mike Coppersmith has taught this Bible Study on Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m. during the months of November through March. We have a large and energetic group attending each week. The Bible Study is fascinating, the discussion is stimulating, the lessons are very practical, the refreshments are good, and the impact on your faith is powerful!

This year's study is entitled "ADVENTURES IN FAITH" and will look at *Famous People in the Bible and the Practical Lessons They Teach Us About the Power of Faith*. Here are some of the titles of the studies Pastor Mike has prepared:

Abraham: Faith and My Need

Joseph: Faith and My Dreams

Moses: Faith and My Worries

Job: Faith and My Questions

Samson: Faith and My Mistakes

Samuel: Faith and My Identity

Elijah: Faith and My Depression

Jabez: Faith and My Quality of Life

Jehosophat: Faith and My Conflicts

Daniel: Faith and My Temptations

Jesus: Faith and My Stress

Nicodemus: Faith and My Salvation

Peter: Faith and My Weaknesses

Paul: Faith and My Loneliness

Luke: Faith and My Legacy

Pastor Mike's Silver Dawns Bible Study begins on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. and meets in the Fellowship Center each Friday through March with the exception of the Friday after Thanksgiving and Christmas Day Friday and New Years Day Friday. This class is designed in such a way that you can start anytime and attend for whatever weeks you are able to do so. Join us for these "Adventures of Faith" as we learn about *Famous People in the Bible and the Practical Lessons They Teach Us About the Power of Faith!*

HEAVENLY DISCIPLINES OF THE OPEN HEART  
**CONFESSION & ABSOLVING**  
**Seeking Grace and Giving Grace**  
November 15, 2009  
SW604

**INTRODUCTION**

Key Point:

*Brokenness may involve grieving, mourning, sorrowing, weeping, lamenting, acknowledging to God that all is not right at the present time, but—when God is at work in Christ—from Broken Hearts come Open Hearts and from Open Hearts come Open Heavens!*

Spiritual Disciplines:

*Activities we do by the power of God's Spirit which enable us to become different on the inside so that the things we could not previously do for Christ we now can do.*

**I. THE HEAVENLY DISCIPLINE OF....CONFESSION**

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

A. Confessing Our Sin to \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men.

1 John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Steps in Confessing Our Sin to God:

- 1) S \_\_\_\_\_ Examination
- 2) S \_\_\_\_\_ Naming of the Sin
- 3) S \_\_\_\_\_ Over the Sin (Brokenness)
- 4) S \_\_\_\_\_ Resolve to Avoid the Sin
- 5) S \_\_\_\_\_ in the Grace of Jesus

Philippians 2:13 (RSV)

...for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

B. Confessing Our Sin to \_\_\_\_\_

1) CORPORATE Confession to Others

Nehemiah 9:1-3

On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and having dust on their heads.

2 ...They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the wickedness of their fathers. 3 They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the Lord their God.

2) PRIVATE Confession to One Another

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

In Your Bible:  
John 20:21-23  
(Page 1075 in the Pew Bible)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Our brother...has been given to us to help us. He hears the confession of our sins in Christ's stead and he forgives our sins in Christ's name. He keeps the secret of our confession as God keeps it. When I go to my brother to confess, I am going to God.

II. THE HEAVENLY DISCIPLINE OF...ABSOLVING

Receiving a Confession:

- 1) R \_\_\_\_\_ to Keep it Confidential.
- 2) R \_\_\_\_\_ Any Sense of Superiority
- 3) R \_\_\_\_\_ To Remain Quiet
- 4) R \_\_\_\_\_ To Announce the Grace of God
- 5) R \_\_\_\_\_ It Is More Important to Pray Than Counsel.

CONCLUSION

For This Week...

*Pray daily for God to show you how to apply this message into your life and then courageously step out in faith, following the leading of the Holy Spirit when it comes to Confessing and Absolving.*