

*But what does it say? "The word is near you, **in your mouth, and in your heart;**" that is, the word of faith, which we preach: that if you will **confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** For with the **heart, one believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** (Romans 10:8-10)*

Jesus is Lord

Why is this important?

What does it **really mean** personally?

How does saying and believing **affect my thinking and living**?

My will is **central** in determining the **direction** of my life.

Life is not something that **just happens** to me, despite so many things being outside of my control.

God is not making choices that **override my freedom** to choose for myself.

*They said therefore to him, "**What must we do, that we may work the works of God?**" Jesus answered them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.**" (John 6:28-29)*

What does it really **mean to believe** in God?

God is not to blame for bad things happening to me.

Others are not to blame for what happens to me.

Blame is the wrong way to live, a **false premise** that blocks me from moving forward in freedom.

*For **you were called to freedom**, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but **through love** become slaves to [serve] one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**" (Galatians 5:13-14 NRSV)*

*We **know** and have **believed the love which God has for us.** God is love, and he who **remains in love** remains in God, and God remains in him. In this **love has been made perfect** among us, that **we may have boldness** in the day of judgment, because as he is, even so are we in this world. (1 John 4:16-17)*

Salvation is never about **affecting God's thinking** or disposition about us, but always about **transforming our thinking** about God.

Salvation means healing, and **God does not need healing** but rather we do.

Healing is needed far **more in our thinking** that it is in our bodies.

Emotional healing requires **supernatural intervention**, but also the **cooperation of our will**.

God wants access or **permission** to take up **residence in our heart**.

This involves our making a choice, and continuing to **choose to consent to let Jesus be Lord**.

Choosing and confessing **Jesus as Lord** involves **making choices** that affect **what occupies our imagination**.

Our **imagination** is the **seat of our faith**, so in order to **exercise saving faith** we need to make **choices to believe what Jesus says** is true **over what our feelings feel** or what our past beliefs insist.

When we **align our will** with the **truth of God's words**, **power is released** that brings transformation.

We do **not have** to continue **to struggle against sin** all our lives or live **feeling defeated**.

*I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now is come the salvation, the power, and the Kingdom of our God, and the **authority of his Christ**; for the **accuser** of our brothers **has been thrown down**, who accuses them before our God day and night. **They overcame him** because of the **Lamb's blood**, and because of the **word of their testimony**. They didn't love their life, even to death. (Revelation 12:10-11)*

The **authority of Christ** is all about recognizing and confessing that **He is Lord** and believing what God says about Him is true because **God's power** is what **raised Jesus** up from physical death.

*I have told you these things, that in me **you may have peace**. In the world you have oppression; but **cheer up! I have overcome the world**. (John 16:33)*

When I confess and believe with my heart that Jesus is Lord, I am **choosing to identify with His declarations** about who I am and that **He alone defines my identity** and worth – not anyone else.

*Therefore, putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, **receive with humility the implanted word**, which is **able to save your souls**. (James 1:21)*

*But **nobody can tame the tongue**. It is a **restless evil**, full of deadly poison. With it **we bless our God and Father**, and with it **we curse men**, who are **made in the image of God**. Out of the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things **ought not to be** so. (James 3:8-10)*

When I allow my imagination and my **words to agree with the accuser**, I am **cursing people** made in the **image of God**. That **includes myself** as well. This is double-mindedness which brings **confusion** and **disables** me from being **able to receive** anything from God.

When I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord, that means I need to also **confess that only what Jesus says is true about me** and refrain from speaking lies over myself or anyone else.

How does this align with **instruction to confess our sins** in order to be forgiven?

When we confess our sins, we must be very careful **never to confess sin as our identity**, only that we need to be **honest to admit** what we were **complicit in causing harm** by **allowing lies to control** us. Confessing our sins and faults is **never to identify as sinner** but only that we have **failed** to remember the **truth about who we really are** according to the **Lord Jesus**. This is about **honesty, not identity**.

After being honest and confessing our sins, we must even more so **confess His righteousness**, goodness, love and compassion over us and give **thanksgiving** and praise and honor and **glory to our Lord** and God. Thus **confession** becomes the means by which we **overcome the lies** and disarm their power in us.