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Clean of Ourselves

All people are enormously fortunate to have the option to confess their sins faithfully before God and accept his forgiveness through the covering of Jesus Christ... if only they would take God up on it. But, only those that do so will derive the benefits. With this confidence, Christians can boldly approach God in repentance after having sinned (Heb. 4:16). Upon receiving the assurance of being forgiven, Christians may approach God with a sense of being clean, because we were cleansed and *imputed* as being sinless (Rom. 4:23-25).

Yet even in this state, we must acknowledge that we have not matured to the point that we would never possibly sin under any circumstances again. We know that we could and perhaps even would sin if circumstances overwhelmed us. God knows it also, yet he still allows us to commune with him in this *imputed* state of total cleanness, even though such is unrealized by our level of maturity.

Do you get it? God is now listening to you, loving you, covering your sins even though he is fully aware of your breaking point; the temptation or pressure-point at which you would again sin. As Christians, we should be continuously aware that when we feel close to God, feel cleansed, that if the circumstances changed, we would otherwise be sinning at that very moment. This is (at least one reason) why we Christian's should not feel we are clean *of ourselves*. Even our *apparent* cleanness is uncleanness *if* God were to remove his covering of imputed righteousness and ongoing spirit of forgiveness. Yet he remains faithful to continue forgiving us upon faithful sorrow and repentance (Mt. 18:22).

Awareness of this removes any excuse for feeling the self is godly on its own. There is no truth to, "I am a really good guy or gal on my own character," nor – "My force of will has developed me into a quality Christian that is pleasing to God." Such a self-deceived spiritually drunken perception is a distortion that comes from Satan's influence. Taking such self-credit is an act of lying and an act of thievery against God's honor and glory. One of the most dangerous states of mind for a Christian remains that Pharisaical personal image of the self as being good on its own power of character. It is God who works in us both to will and to do righteous behavior (Phi. 2:13; also see Col 1:9-11, Heb 13:20). Denying this is center-court Pharisaical self-idolatrizing witchcraft (see 1 Sam 15:23 & Gal. 5:20f).

Therefore, let us all very carefully and humbly examine ourselves and invite God to remove such wicked and perverse views (2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Cor. 11:31), for none of us are perfectly humble.

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Please direct any questions or comments regarding *Call to Prayer* series to john@sojourn-cny.com