

Doctrine of Confession

1. In recent years special attention has been paid to the concept of confession.
2. Of particular concern is a doctrinal teaching known as positive confession.
3. The Theology of the Spoken Word (Rhematology), or thought actualization, is commonly known as positive confession.
4. Positive Confession stresses the inherent power of words and thoughts. Each person predestines his own future by what he says verbally and by how well he uses spiritual laws.
5. Positive Confession postulates a mechanistic universe instead of a personal one and therein is the danger of placing undue emphasis upon words for words sake (see, Kenneth Copeland, *Laws of Prosperity*, p. 15; Charles Capps, *The Tongue A Creative Force*, pp. 117-118; *Releasing the Ability of God*, pp. 98-99, 101-104). .
5. The basic premise of 'positive confession' as taught in the Word-Faith movement is:
 - God created things by speaking them into existence.
 - We are created in God's image.
 - Therefore we, too, can create things (or situations) by speaking them into existence.
6. Those who teach this doctrine claim that words are a creative force, with the power of influencing both the physical and the spiritual world. Hence believers spend much time
 - binding Satan, demons and other spiritual entities;
 - claiming health;
 - and claiming wealth.
7. Because every doctrine is to be examined in light of *Scripture* and every thought is to be brought into captivity for Christ the question arises as to the validity of Positive Confession.
8. There are three words translated confess in the Authorized Version.
 - Hebrew. *yadah* (*yaw-daw'*); literally, to use (i.e. hold out) the hand; physically, to throw (a stone, an arrow) at or away; especially to revere or worship (with extended hands); intensively, to bemoan (by wringing the hands): *Leviticus 5:5 And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing:*
 - Greek. *homologeō* (*hom-ol-og-eh'-o*); to assent, i.e. covenant, acknowledge: *Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*

- Greek. *exomologeō* (*ex-om-ol-og-eh'-o*); to acknowledge or (by implication of assent) agree fully. *Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*
9. What is absent in these definitions is the connotations associated with the definitions given to positive confession by its advocates whereby one's destiny is determined by what is confessed, a goal is achieved or power is influenced over the physical or spiritual world.
10. Those who embrace positive confession concepts do so for a variety of reasons.
- The teaching seems to be logical.
 - The teaching appears to correspond to known facts.
 - The teaching is simple.
 - The teaching appears to be profound and mystical.
 - The teaching portends to empower a person and puts control of life within their reach.
 - The teaching appeals to various *Scripture* passages though rarely if ever in context.
 - The teaching harmonizes with an American values system of self-centeredness and acquisition.
 - The teaching appears to be able to control God. He must bless because a person wants Him to bless and blessing is inevitably defined in terms of health, wealth and whatever a person wants at the moment be it good weather, a job, a date, marriage, etc. God is in danger of becoming a celestial genie.
11. What does God want individuals to confess?
- God wants individuals to confess specific iniquities. *Leviticus 16:21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*
 - God wants individuals to confess the iniquities of their fathers. *Leviticus 26:40 If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me;*
 - God wants individuals to confess sin and show they are willing to make restitution. *Numbers 5:7 Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed.*
 - God wants individuals to confess His name. *1 Kings 8:33 When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house:*

- God wants individuals to confess His power to save. *Job 40:14 Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee.*
 - God wants individuals to confess Christ before the world. *Luke 12:8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:*
 - God wants individuals to confess The Way. *Acts 24:14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:*
 - God wants every individual to confess to God. *Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*
 - God wants individuals to confess the gospel to other. *Romans 15:9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.*
 - God wants individuals to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. *Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
 - God wants individuals to confess their faults one to another. *James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*
 - God wants individuals to confess not only a sin nature but the sins of that nature. *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - God wants individuals to confess that Jesus is the Son of God and thus very God of very God. *1 John 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.*
 - God wants individuals to confess that Jesus Christ is true humanity. *2 John 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*
12. Christ has promised to confess before the Father the names of those loyal who have been loyal to Him. *Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*
13. In contrast to the biblical positive confession of sin, the name of God, His power to save and the person of Jesus Christ is the negative confession of the world, the flesh and the devil.

- Satan wants individuals to confess that Jesus is not the Messiah. *John 9:22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.*
 - Satan wants religious leaders to confess that Jesus is not to be believed in. *John 12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:*
 - Satan wants religious leaders to confess there is no resurrection, there are no angels and there is no immortal soul. *Acts 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.*
14. The idea of a positive confesses doctrine is an extra biblical concept that redefines a word in terms of worldly wisdom in order to appeal to a fleshly appetite.
 15. In practice those who want something at the moment, like a child in a toy store, come to believe they can have it. Indeed, if they confess it as theirs they shall have it by faith. Oh how far astray is the modern positive confession movement from the simplicity that is found in *Scripture*.
 16. Who is asking God what He wants us to confess?
 17. Search the creeds of Christendom, study church history and be astonished. The most spiritual of God's people have never come close to teaching what the doctrine of positive confession advocates today.