

I John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.” Many people look back on the Korean revival of 1907 as the real spiritual birth of the Korean church. The main characteristic of the Korean revival was confession of sins. Two Korean pastors had bad feelings toward one another. One confessed his hatred and bitterness toward the other, but he refused to respond. The next night he came forward and began to confess his animosity toward the pastor who had forgiven him. The other pastor then arose and called out to God, “Father! Father!” Suddenly the Spirit of God came down in a mighty demonstration of power. The two pastors prayed as they had never prayed. Others threw themselves on the floor. Hundreds stood with arms outstretched toward heaven. Every man forgot every other. Each was face to face with God. Someone started a hymn and soon everyone began to sing. Public confessions began as people saw themselves in the light of God’s judgment. Hundreds of people made restitution for their wrongs. Men went from house to house asking forgiveness from those they had wronged, returning stolen money and property. Each person convicted by the Holy Spirit could get no rest until he or she had confessed and made restitution as far as possible. They could find no peace until they did what we are all commanded to do. Everyone has an opinion about public confession, but when the Holy Spirit falls opinions don’t matter. Confession of sins is Biblical, not only to God but to the persons we offend. Nothing indicates a need for personal revival more than a refusal to forgive. On the other hand, it is not easy to ask for forgiveness. Matthew 5:24 says, “Leave your gift before the altar... First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” Jesus said our prayers will not be answered if we do not forgive those who trespass against us (Mat. 6:12). Revival breaks down the will and exposes pride. It requires humility to forgive and honesty to make restitution. It is hardly mentioned, but restitution is a part of confession. Revival restores confession to normalcy. You don’t have to wait on revival to forgive. Obey God, and revival will begin in you. HA