

Genuine Confession: Understanding God's Heart Towards us and Our Responsibility

To Summarise God's heart towards us:

1. ***God is merciful:*** God delights to forgive (Jeremiah 3:12)
2. ***God desires and promises to heal our unfaithfulness*** (Hosea 14:4)
3. ***God's love knows no bounds:*** there is no sin too great that God can't forgive (Hosea 14:4)
4. ***God's anger is gone forever***—God chooses to forget forgiven sins and there is no more condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus (Hosea 14:4, Romans 8:1)
5. ***God's heart to His faithless people is, "come home to Me again"*** (Jeremiah 3:12)
6. ***Our Heavenly Father understands our weakness and is tender and compassionate towards us*** (Psalm 103:13-14)
7. ***God's desire is to bless His children:*** "'I thought to myself, 'I would love to treat you as my own children!' I wanted nothing more than to give you this beautiful land — the finest possession in the world'" (Jeremiah 3:19)
8. ***God desires relationship with us:*** "I looked forward to your calling me 'Father,' and I wanted you never to turn from me" (Jeremiah 3:19).

To summarise the characteristics of true confession and repentance:

1. ***We must ask for forgiveness:*** "Bring your confessions, and return to the Lord. Say to Him..." This means we must be willing to humble ourselves. (Hosea 14:2, Matthew 5:3)
2. ***We will be broken hearted over our sin:*** we will be mourning over our sin (Psalm 147:3, Matthew 5:4, Isaiah 57:15)
3. ***We must always remember that we will never deserve forgiveness and restoration back into right relationship with God:*** it is all grace (Hosea 14:2, Ephesians 2:8-9)
4. ***We must recognise our complete dependance on God:*** we must be led and empowered by the Spirit—"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," Says the Lord of hosts." (Hosea 14:3, Zechariah 4:6)
5. ***We will praise God for His abundant love, grace and mercy*** (Hosea 14:2)
6. ***We come fully submitted to God's lordship over our lives*** (Jeremiah 3:22)
7. ***We recognise that our sin is against God and God alone:*** God is crushed by our adulterous heart—our sin hurts God the most (Psalm 41:4, 51:4, Ezekiel 6:9)