

Seven Steps to the Blessed Life in Psalm 32.

IN the first verse of this Psalm we find the blessedness of the man whose sins are forgiven, but in the second verse we have the blessedness of the man in whose spirit there is no guile, that is, one whose heart is cleansed. There are seven steps to this blessedness ; in the 3rd and 4th verses we have *conviction of sin*, for the Holy Ghost as really convicts Christians of sin, as He does the unconverted, and our spiritual life depends upon our yielding submission to the Holy Spirit, for He is within us as a Personal Presence, with a mind and will of His own. He is Christ's inner Self, and if He is not hindered will at once let us know when the least little wrong doing is allowed, If we refuse to obey and turn away from the sin, the 4th verse will be our experience. The first step, then, is *conviction*.

5th verse, Confession. Now, it is most important to know what confession is. It is not merely saying "forgive us our trespasses, etc." There is no confession in *that*, for confession always involves real sorrow for sin ; and to confess, we tell out in detail the sin to God with genuine repentance and a heart longing for deliverance. In this same verse we have the third step, forgiveness ; and when we confess, the forgiveness follows. Turn with me to 1 John 1: 9. We have exactly the same truth, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." There we have *confession, forgiveness, cleansing*. We confess to God, and who is He faithful and just to? He is faithful to Christ who is in Heaven, as the High Priest of His people, and just to the one who confesses. So that by virtue of that precious blood the forgiveness is instantaneous with the confession. When should we confess? At night when we are tired and weary, and have forgotten the shortcomings of the day? No. Confession should be instantaneous with the consciousness that the sin is committed. If it be an evil thought or