

Confession

Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. Acts 19:18

Confession acknowledges who we are. Our emotions, doubts, victories - confession is transparency to our core. Confession is necessary. God forgives, but we must let go. Confession is admitting what God already knows. We practice confession with one another so that we can help one another. Confession leads to forgiveness on many levels. Ask Andy Pettitte (as opposed to Roger Clemens).

Today I want to focus on a specific confession by Nate Loucks, a great friend of my son Jason and fellow pastor. Nate was recently stunned to find out that he has cancer in his chest. He shared these thoughts on his blog: *I don't know if I'm angry. Or if it's just me being sad. Selfish. I think I'm a little mad, but I don't know I don't feel like I know anything right now. I spent minutes mad at the Divine, until I want to sink back into the hands of Christ. Then I repeat my anger fits. I am childish. "Kyrie, eleison", I whisper over to myself. Again and again and again. It calms me, but only for a second. I want to hold my children and tell them that I'll be there forever but I know that's not true. Even if I live many more years, we will be separated at some point. I want to tell them that I'm sorry I haven't played lately because I've been so sick. I feel it. I think about our church community. How do I tell them? Should I just hide it? But there's no way to hide the pain on my face or Ema's. I want to talk to my friend Brandon Hora but, then I get sad again. Cancer beats people. We are going to beat this cancer, I say. All the while knowing that I can't make a statement like that. In truth. I HOPE we are going to beat this cancer. I trust that Christ can beat this cancer I trust that the doctors can beat this cancer. I trust that the cancer doesn't have to be my final movement in life. But, yet I sit here in a hospital bed a bit afraid, a bit angry, and sad. I trust that hope will come in the morning.*

1. Please share your thoughts on Nate's post and how you felt as you read it.

Nate posted a followup the next day thanking all for the outpouring of support, but also to address this: *I also received a few messages that were concerned about my faith. Yesterday, when I said that I'm a bit angry and sad, this was cause for concern for some. Let me assure you; my faith has not been shaken. I believe in resurrection as firmly today as I have ever an Easter morning. But, there's still so much uncertainty that causes us to experience a full range of emotions. Today I don't fear much. Tomorrow is another day. I hope to model a powerful faith to those around me. However, I also must be honest. I trust that Christ understands my moments of anger, sadness, and confusion. He doesn't need any of us to be an emotionless automaton, but I think Christ wants us to fully honest with who we are today. Do not mistake emotions as the absence of faith.*

2. Does the first post raise questions about Nate's faith for you?

3. Can a person of faith be angry at God?

4. Can you be a person of faith and still doubt?

5. What do you think about his remark; "I think Christ wants us to be fully honest with who we are today"?

6. Do you practice confession with your spouse, a brother in faith, anyone??

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