



The Five Elements of a Quiet Time

- I. Praise
- II. Thanksgiving
- III. Confession
- IV. Bible Study
- V. Supplication

Confession

1 John 1:9 | *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (CSB)*

1 John 1:8 | *If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (CSB)*

1 John 1:10 | *If we say, "We have not sinned," we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (CSB)*

Confession

I. Why do we need confession and cleansing?

Confession and cleansing are the mechanisms by which we restore our broken fellowship with the Lord.

II. How can a person be eligible for cleansing?

— **Ephesians 1:7** | *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.* (CSB)

III. What are the benefits of confession and cleansing?

— **Psalm 32:3–5** | *When I kept silent, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was drained as in the summer's heat. Selah Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah* (CSB)

— **Proverbs 28:13** | *The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.* (CSB)

IV. How does one confess his sins and receive cleansing?

— How to confess?

A. An _____

B. An _____

— **1 Peter 1:18-19** | *For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.* (CSB)

C. A _____

D. A _____

— **Psalms 103:10-13** | *He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.* (CSB)

How to Confess in Quiet Time?

A. Embrace an intentional sensitivity to personal sin.

— **Psalm 139:23–24** | *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.*
(CSB)

B. Slow down before the Lord and listen.

C. Write down something.

D. Take personal responsibility.

— **Psalm 51:4** | *Against you—you alone—I have sinned and done this evil in your sight. So you are right when you pass sentence; you are blameless when you judge.*
(CSB)

E. Ask for cleansing and forgiveness.

— **Psalm 51:2** | *Completely wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.* (CSB)

F. Ask for wisdom and strength. Write down strategy.

Bible Interpretation and Eugene Peterson

Who is Eugene Peterson?

Author of many books including...

- *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*
- *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*
- *East This Book*
- *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*

The controversy of a couple weeks ago...

Peterson's July 12 statements...

There we were, looking for a new minister of music. One of the young people that had grown up under my pastorship, he was a high school teacher and a musician. When he found out about the opening, he showed up in church one day and stood up and said, "I'd like to apply for the job of music director here, and I'm gay." We didn't have any gay people in the whole congregation. Well, some of them weren't openly gay. But I was so pleased with the congregation. Nobody made any questions about it. And he was a really good musician.

I wouldn't have said this 20 years ago, but now I know a lot of people who are gay and lesbian and they seem to have as good a spiritual life as I do. I think that kind of debate about lesbians and gays might be over. People who disapprove of it, they'll probably just go to another church. So we're in a transition and I think it's a transition for the best, for the good. I don't think it's something that you can parade, but it's not a right or wrong thing as far as I'm concerned.

Peterson's July 13 statements...

To clarify, I affirm a biblical view of marriage: one man to one woman. I affirm a biblical view of everything.

It's worth noting that in my 29-year career as a pastor, and in the years since then, I've never performed a same-sex wedding. I've never been asked and, frankly, I hope I never am asked. This reporter, however, asked a hypothetical question: if I were pastoring today and if a gay

couple were Christians of good faith and if they asked me to perform their wedding ceremony—if, if, if. Pastors don't have the luxury of indulging in hypotheticals. And to be honest, no is not a word I typically use. It was an awkward question for me because I don't do many interviews at this stage in my life at 84, and I am no longer able to travel as I once did or accept speaking requests.

With most interviews I've done, I generally ask for questions in advance and respond in writing. That's where I am most comfortable. When put on the spot by this particular interviewer, I said yes in the moment. But on further reflection and prayer, I would like to retract that.

That's not something I would do out of respect to the congregation, the larger church body, and the historic biblical Christian view and teaching on marriage. That said, I would still love such a couple as their pastor. They'd be welcome at my table, along with everybody else.

Lessons to learn...

A. Our worldview ought to hinge on _____ not _____.

— Why did Peterson choose a worship leader who was practicing homosexuality?

- It was convenient.
- Nobody complained.
- The guy was really good as a musician.

B. Do not allow your _____ to determine the meaning of _____. Allow Scripture to determine the meaning of your perceptions.

What should he conclude about the fact that “they seem to have as good a spiritual life as I do?”

C. Right and wrong are never “as far as _____ are concerned.”