



LOOKING
FORWARD,
GLIMPISING BACK

Moving into New
Year



As we enter the New Year....

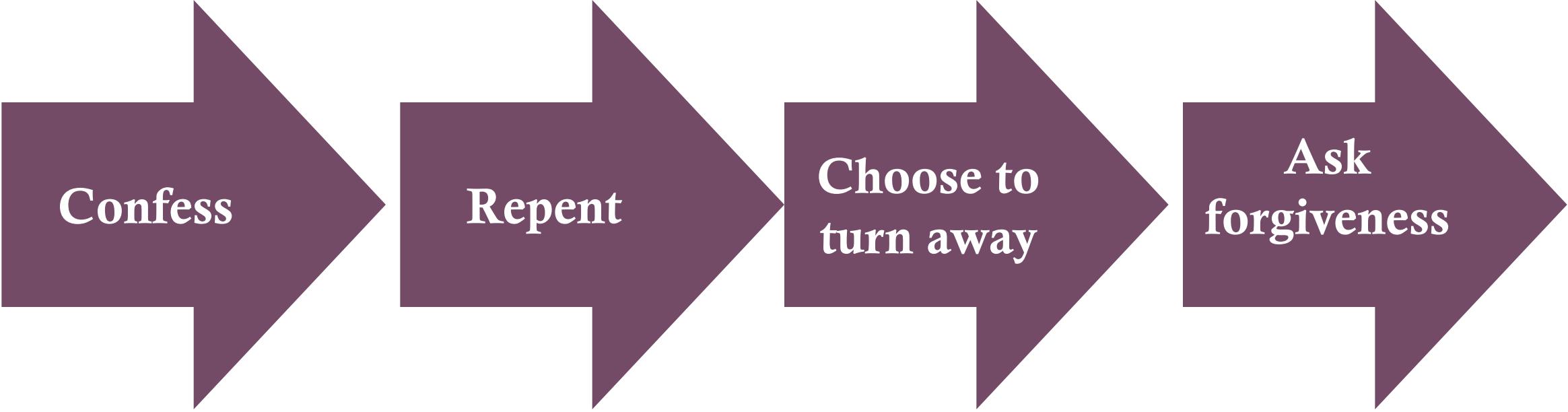
- Where are our eyes focused?
- How well are we driving?
- Who is guiding us on our journey?
- What's our final destination?

1. WHERE ARE OUR EYES FOCUSED?

Hebrews 12:2 *“Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends, from beginning to end.”*

- Let go of what's behind: Are our eyes focused on past pain and regrets or God's future purpose?

Philippians 3:13 *... Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead...*



Confess

Repent

Choose to
turn away

Ask
forgiveness

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Hebrews 8:12 *For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”*

Micah 7:19 *He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*

- When the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future

2. HOW WELL ARE WE DRIVING?

(a) Created to worship God

Hebrews 13:15 *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.*

2. HOW WELL ARE WE DRIVING?

(b) Formed for fellowship with God's family-

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and even more as you see the Day approaching.

2. HOW WELL ARE WE DRIVING?

(c) Living like Christ – renew your mind to be more like Christ

Romans 12:2 (LNT) *Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person, by changing the way you think. Then you will know God's will for you, which is good, pleasing and perfect.*

Philippians 4:8 (NLT) *Fix your thoughts on what is true and honourable, and right and pure, and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*

2. HOW WELL ARE WE DRIVING?

(d) Shaped to Serve – uniquely gifted by God to serve others

1 Peter 4:1- Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Romans 12:6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us...

Gift	Application
Prophesy	Speak out with as much faith as God has given you.
Serving	Serve enthusiastically
Teaching	Teach well
Encouraging	Be encouraging
Giving	Give generously
Leading	Take responsibility seriously
Mercy	Kindness - Gladly; cheerfully
Hospitality	Eager to practice hospitality
Love	Genuine affection; Delight to honour each other
Helping	Be ready to help others

2. HOW WELL ARE WE DRIVING?

(e) Made for Mission – made to share God’s love and message with the world

Matthew 28:19-20 *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

3. WHO IS GUIDING ME ON MY JOURNEY?

Isaiah 43:18 *Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past, see I'm doing a new thing. Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.*

- Most Biblical celebrations are to remember what He has done – not what WE have done

John 7:37-39, *On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’*

By this he meant the spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time, the spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- Jesus was referring to Isaiah's prophesy that God would pour out His Spirit on Israel's descendants (Isaiah 43:18 and Isaiah 44:3)
- There is a filling (at salvation) and a re-filling (ie Acts 1:4-5 filled; 4:8 filled again; Acts 4:31 refilled again)

Holy Spirit	Purpose
Refresh	Nourish our souls
Develop fruits of Spirit	Love joy peace patience kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness and self-control (Galations 5:22-25)
Courage	Boldness to speak God's Word.
Discern	Recognise truth from error / lies
Convict	Steer us when we go the wrong way
Counsellor	Gently guiding us in His ways
Comforter	When we feel lonely or afraid or discouraged

4. WHAT'S MY FINAL DESTINATION?

Philippians 3:13-14 *Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

The goal Paul pressed toward was twofold:
to know Jesus Christ and to become like
Him;
to finally be in glory with Him in heaven.
