

CONFESSION

by Jan Stockdale



WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG?

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

I love to go on trips. We travel to Kansas City four or five times a year to an apartment shared by 12 couples. It is located on the Country Club Plaza and is a refreshing place to go for rest and relaxation for myself and my husband. I always enjoy going with great anticipation, but coming home is often times a dreaded experience for me. Not because I don't love my home because I always make the comment that I feel amazingly comfortable to be back in my own bed. I think the dread for me is always the mess that I encounter when I have to empty my bag with all of that dirty laundry. The reality of the trip being over and the clothes needing to be washed and cleaned is the focus that is weary to me. The thought of unpacking my bag seems overwhelming because of other things demanding my time when I get home. But I need clean clothes to wear because the dirty ones wouldn't be comfortable to wear considering their condition. It wouldn't reflect who I am. I want to wear clothes that are clean and have a sweet aroma. (2 Corinthians 2:15) As I empty my bag I proceed to put those dirty clothes in the washing machine. I discover a relief that the bag is empty and the process of restoring my clothes back to their original state is being accomplished through that miraculous machine.

Wow!! Would there be a deeper lesson to experience on a spiritual level? What if I traveled through life and discovered that I have carried bags on my trip that I just continually dreaded emptying? Why? Because there is dirty stuff in there and other things seems to demand my time and attention. I started on the journey with clean clothes when I became a child of God. However, because of choices that I have made and even things done to me that I carry deep shame for, I feel dirty and smelly, but I know this is not the identity God has given me. What if I could go home daily to the safest place I know, and find comfort and peace in my Savior? He is waiting to say, "*Come now, let us reason together. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow, though they are red*

as crimson, they shall be like wool." Isaiah 1:18. The revelation of His work on the cross would let me know that I am forgiven, it is finished, and I could walk in a deeper freedom because I would believe that my clothes are already washed by the blood of Jesus. Now all that He asks me to do is empty my bag and agree with Him that I have gotten dirty on this moment-by-moment trip called daily living. I believe that as I ask Him to clean those dirty clothes (confess that my bag is full of unclean thoughts, unbelief, shame and wrong actions), I can then stand in the confidence that God is faithful to purify those clothes and return them to their original state: CLEAN AND WHITE AS SNOW !!!!!

That is even better than OXY CLEAN! It is the amazing power of the machine called "reconciliation," the process of restoring us back to the original state that God created us for. We can then continue on the trip daily walking in a deeper level of freedom God calls us to.

Reflect and Respond

- 1) Is God the safest place to be in your deepest failures? Why or Why not?
- 2) Read 2 Corinthians 2:15. Do you truly believe that you are the fragrance of Christ?
- 3) Is confession hard for you? Why?
- 4) Could it be as simple as daily taking inventory of what is in your bag that is dirty, agreeing with God about it and letting God take it and declare to you that it is CLEAN AND WHITE AS SNOW!!!!



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Jan loves to encourage, support and validate the women in her life and has a deep passion for women suffering grief through losses in their lives.