

What is the significance of our Renewal of Baptismal Promises

(ALSO KNOWN AS **THE RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**)

(PUBLICLY PROFESSED AT A CONFIRMATION MASS; THE EASTER VIGIL MASS;
AND DURING THE RITE OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM)

But, do we **REALLY** know what we are publicly professing
(in other words, **promising**) to God?

V. *Do you reject [also known as: renounce*] Satan?*

R. I do.

V. *And all his works? [Do you renounce Satan's works?]*

R. I do.

V. *And all his empty promises? [Do you renounce Satan's empty promises?]*

R. I do.

V. *Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?*

R. I do.

V. *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?*

R. I do.

V. *Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?*

R. I do.

V. *God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.*

R. Amen.

The act of *renouncing* (or *renunciation*) breaks the power of our enemies (or demons, mainly: Satan). Similar to existing portions of the RCIA ritual and process, *renunciation* has been an integral part of our Christian faith heritage as believers, since the third and fourth century AD; which includes scrutiny and the renunciation of sinful actions and behavior that were of our “old” way of life—that we willingly agreed and promised to God to give up and put behind us.

Renunciation is part of our ongoing conversion—a lifelong process of faith formation and of building our personal relationship with God. Having made a personal decision to follow Christ, we must choose to become His disciple and be like Him by *renouncing* anything that does not belong to Christ and is contrary to God’s commandments, scriptures and plan for us.

But, how and what are we *renouncing*? The act of *Renunciation* naturally is preceded by uncovering Satan’s “*entryways*” into our lives. Identifying our demons and exposing them to the light (through the frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation) gives us power over them. Succumbing to Satan’s temptations, radically alters and conceals our God given identity.

There are eight (8), common and frequent entryways for the influences of Satan to readily enter, find or make a home in our bodies and lives:

1. **Unconfessed, repeated sin.** Unconfessed, ingrained sinful patterns make it hard for us to distinguish right from wrong—God’s truth from Satan’s lies. A stronghold is created when we give in to sin and deny or justify it—gradually pushing God and His grace out and thereby giving Satan permission to enter in area(s) of our lives. Our sinful behavior becomes more than hedonistic-centered (pleasure seeking) problems, when they lead to addiction or compulsiveness—then, it may well have taken on a life of its own within us.
2. **Response to trauma.** Our response to situations, events and others’ judgments are our responsibility. Do we act out of charity? With anger, resentment, fear or withdrawal?
3. **Family Sin.** Sinful behavior and habitual patterns may be passed on from one generation to the next, however subtly. We can cancel Satan’s plan however, by taking hold of our God-given freedom in Christ and taking personal responsibility for how we live our lives—instead of blaming others or finding excuses.
4. **Curses/self-inflicted curses.** Negative thoughts about one’s self and body, and negative words from parents, siblings, friends and caregivers destroy the temple of the Holy Spirit.
5. **Involvement with the occult.** Tarot cards, palm readers, horoscopes, or Ouija boards.
6. **Rebellion and disobedience.** Do we follow God’s will or do *we* know what’s best?
7. **Lies we have believed.** When we begin to believe or live lies that are contrary to God’s will, scripture and plan, we allow evil to enter our lives, which lead us away from God.
8. **Sexual relations outside a valid and holy bond of marriage.**

(SR: Unbound: Freedom in Christ, by Neal & Janet Lozano, @2013)