



SERIES: MY LIFE WITH GOD

Secret Sin

Life Reference: Genesis 3:1-10

Focus Verse:

“O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You” (Psalm 69:5, New King James Version).

A friend of mine was never very obedient in following doctor’s orders. When time came for the next checkup, his guilty conscience would kick in. On appointment day, he would sleep a little longer and eat a lot less. In fact, it was black coffee only until after the deed was done. I often wondered whom he thought he was fooling. His body suffered from the disobedience, not the doctor’s.

A lot of us are like that. We have guilty little secrets that we hope never come to light. How many wives have hidden that new dress in the back of the closet so they can later tell an inquiring hubby, “This? I’ve had it for months!” The maxed-out credit card, the numbers on the scales, or dust under the beds may be our guilty little secrets, but far worse are what the Bible calls secret sins—things we think we can hide from God. Like my friend with his cup of black coffee, we only fool ourselves.

“Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance” (Psalm 90:8).



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Life Reflection:

Have you ever been guilty of covering up some of your little secrets—the credit card bill, the speeding ticket, or perhaps the hidden stash of chocolate in your drawer? Or maybe it was a mistake at work that you knew would upset your boss.

How do you feel inside when you try to cover your actions?

Does hiding your little secret affect your relationship in any way with the other person?

Sin is such an old-fashioned word. We substitute euphemisms—fault, mistake, error, weakness, failing, indulgence—to soothe our guilty conscience. Eating a candy bar when we've already consumed 3000 calories that day is an indulgence; disobeying a commandment of God is sin.

One meaning of sin is, "estrangement from God as a result of breaking God's law." An estrangement is a rift in a relationship. This is what happened when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden. They hid from God's presence. The pleasant times they spent with Him were suddenly shattered because of their wrongdoing. They were reluctant to face their Creator, knowing they had disobeyed. We often react in the same way, attempting to hide our sin, but we don't fool God.

"And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden" (Genesis 3:8).

The Bible compares sin to darkness.

"For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved" (John 3:20).

However, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (I John 1:5). When sin enters our lives, it blocks the light and separates us from God.

You may say, "It's only a little thing I have hidden away. It won't damage my walk with God." True, it may not be murder, adultery, or what we call a "big sin." But if it



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blocks the light, we are in a spiritual eclipse. An eclipse is a “permanent or temporary dimming or cutting off of light.” Jesus said:

“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

Life Reflection:

Was there a time in your life when your relationship with God was broken because of sin?

How did you feel when your sins blocked the light of God in your life?

How do we get back into a right relationship with God after sin has separated us? (Hint: Read Psalm 51:17.)

Life Response:

God has given us a conscience so that we can recognize right from wrong. That guilty feeling which comes when we know we are doing wrong is important. To repeatedly override our conscience causes us to lose sensitivity to right and wrong. I Timothy 4:2 says that our conscience can be “seared with a hot iron.” Even “little sins” add to this insensitivity. Song of Solomon 2:15 speaks of little foxes that spoil the vines. The more we ignore the little things, the greater the chance of allowing the “big sins” to trip us up. The light of God’s Word, which is a lamp to our feet, is eclipsed, and we stumble.

The remedy is simple: confess our sin and move into the light of His presence. David’s prayer of repentance in Psalm 51 models how to restore the joy in our relationship with God.



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My Prayer:

Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,

Blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin is always before me.
Against You, You only, have I sinned.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me hear joy and gladness,

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

(Taken from Psalm 51:1-3, 7-8, 10-11, New King James Version)

More Life with God References:

Genesis 3
Psalm 51
Psalm 139:23-24
Proverbs 28:13
Ecclesiastes 12:14
Jeremiah 16:17
I Timothy 1:19
I John 1:29

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