

Check Yourself

“He who conceals his sin does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)

“Therefore if we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

A group of Gangsters had attacked a bank and robbed all the money they found. It was a well-fortified bank but the group was systematic in doing robbery. They succeeded to attack and control the camera system. They succeeded to operate the locks of the safe cabinet and money containers even highly secured. And finally they took all the money and managed to run-away. But the policeman soon discovered the crime and started to search and make precise investigations. Although the gangsters tried their best to hide their identity the policemen were able to get information about them and started to look for each one of them. The policeman began to run after them from place to place and city after city. Such an action of the authority forced the group to leave the country and went to another state to hide the money and to hide their selves as well. But the International Police were also after them, until finally they were caught and all the money they had stolen was taken back from them. In spite of all the crooked ways they did to cover their shameful acts, but ***“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)*** This proverb is the word of God and the word of God will never fail. Every word spoken by God must be fulfilled. Sin will be exposed. Any sin that we want to hide and we keep on doing it God will bring it to the surface: ***“For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.” (Mark 4:22)*** We heard that there is no crime that is not finally discovered. This is what the word of God emphasized. God never promotes sin or wickedness.

Anyone of us may fall into sin. Sins that as we try to hide yet sooner being disclosed:

- 1- ***Pride:*** The love to be always in the highest position and never be ready to be humbled and placed down, or to say, *“I was wrong, I want to correct myself.”* He never accepts, *“I am walking in the wrong way, I have to go back to the right path.”* A man with pride wants to be honored. But, ***“A man’s pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.” (Proverbs 29: 23)***
- 2- ***Envy and Jealousy:*** It is an evil desire to get what belongs to others. It is an ill feeling that the person with jealousy feels when he found someone achieved something or worked better than he did. Jealousy may bring hatred, strife and sharp competition. It hinders the person from enjoying God’s blessing because it disturbs him watching others and comparing himself with others always makes him discontented in life.
- 3- ***Anger:*** This is the nuisance and painful feeling in the heart of a person who failed to achieve or who did not receive what he was expecting. Or, he received an offense or insult and he wanted to revenge. Anger is destructive for the body, to the mind and to the soul. It causes anxiety or depression. It may lead also to quarrels, fight, relationships, division or departure of friends, wars and many more.

- 4- ***Greed:*** It is to love to gain more and more; to add to what is already have. Greedy people love to say, *“Give me.”* All what they have is never enough and they struggle much to gain more. But, ***“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36)***
- 5- ***Lust:*** People with overwhelming sexual desire are given over to sensuality and indulge themselves in every kind of immorality and impurity. ***“Having lost all sensibility, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.” (Ephesians 4:19)***
- 6- ***Gluttony:*** It is the love for over eating and over drinking. The person is controlled by his love to satisfy his stomach. But the word of God reminds us, ***“When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you, and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony. So not crave his delicacies for that food are deceptive.” (Proverbs 23:1-3)***
- 7- ***Laziness:*** It is the unwillingness to do the work that God had put on person’s hand. He is never diligent to do certain task. He gives many excuses postponing the work and justifies the complacency of not doing it. ***“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command your brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you receive from us. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you brothers, never tire of doing what is right.” (2 Thessalonians 3:6,12-13)***

The above are common sins that cause man to fall down. They are problems to us but if we have the solution we are blessed. ***“Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.” (Romans 4:7-8)*** God has opened the way for us; ***“While we are still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8b)*** God loves us and He wants to save us from any deadly sin. ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*** Jesus has given us the power to overcome sins. His blood that was poured out on the cross has cleansed us from all unrighteousness. The way of the world to overcome sin is either to deny it or hide it, but that is absolutely ineffective. ***“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces then finds mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)*** ***“Therefore if we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)***

My dear and beloved: What we need to do is to confess our sin to our Lord Jesus and He will forgive us and he will enable us to control ourselves to stop doing it. He will show us mercy and grace as we pray: ***“Heavenly Father, thank You for the new life I received when You sent your Son Jesus to die for me on the cross to give me eternal life. Oh Lord, I confess to You all my sins. Remove all my pride, anger, envy and jealousy. Help me to get rid of my greed, lust and gluttony. Help me overcome laziness and complacency. Make me diligent in doing your will and obeying your Word. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name,” Amen.***