

## No Need to Hide -- God Knows Our Secrets

We can tell when our granddaughters have done something they shouldn't. When they do something they know is wrong, they hide under a bed or table, hoping we won't notice them. They feel ashamed and don't want to deal with it. Their hiding is actually an admission of guilt. So, when it comes time to deal with the issue, as grandparents, we already know what happened. We just want our granddaughters to admit and learn from what they did. We are ready to forgive them.

When we have done something wrong in our lives, we also sometimes hesitate to confess our sins to God. We don't want to admit our fault. We want to keep it a secret from God. *Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy (Proverbs 28:13)*



In fact, there are no secrets from God. Max Lucado said, "Confession is not telling God what we did. He already knows. Confession is simply agreeing with God that our acts were wrong."

Confession is not as difficult or intimidating as it sounds. Just like our granddaughters, we know that what we have done is wrong. God knows, too. If we want God's mercy and healing, we need to admit our guilt – to what He already knows. He can't heal behavior we don't admit is wrong. If we want to get on with our life, we need to admit the behavior to God. *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord (Acts 3:19)*

We must seek God's forgiveness and mercy, rather than carrying the burden of unresolved sin. Max Lucado said that guilt is "a healthy regret for telling God one thing and doing another." Admit that what you did was wrong and seek to do better the next time. We hear at the communion table, *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)*. God doesn't expect perfection from humans but gives it to us through the righteousness of forgiveness.

**Question:** Do you seek to be honest with God, freely admitting when you have fallen short, and resolving to do better in the future?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord. Sometimes we sin and just hope it goes away on its own. We hide, and hope no one will notice. You know what we did and are waiting for us to repent of our sins so You can heal us. Amen.