# Confess Your Sins



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Have you ever done something wrong and then tried to cover it up? Maybe you broke your mother's favorite vase, but instead of telling her, you hid the pieces under the couch and pretended nothing happened. Will she notice the vase is missing? How can you keep her from finding out what you've done?

Proverbs 28:13 says it's foolish to try to hide our sins or transgressions. What is sin? Sin is anything we say or do or think that displeases God or breaks one of his good commands. Usually when we sin we feel guilty and embarrassed. We don't want anyone to know what we've done, so we try to hide or conceal it. But there's a problem. The Bible tells us that even if others don't know what we've done, God knows. God knows everything, even the things we do in secret. And God has promised to punish those who sin against him (Romans 6:23).

So what should we do when we sin? We should run _to_ God, not away from him. Why? Because God gives mercy to those who confess and forsake (give up) their sin. If we ask God to forgive us, he will (1 John 1:9). If we ask God to help us obey, he will (Philippians 4:13). God will give us mercy. He will take away our guilt and punishment, but only if we humble ourselves before him and confess our sin. This is the way to true peace and happiness.

☆ If you are not a Christian, God is calling you to confess your sin and trust in Jesus so that you may receive the gift of eternal life.

☆ If you are a Christian, God has already forgiven _all_ your sin. But part of living as a Christian is continuing to humbly confess your sins to God as you become aware of them. As you do, you will experience God's mercy more fully.