

# Should you admit your mistakes? (28:13)

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

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## THE TEXT (NASB)

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

*He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. KJV - Proverbs 28:13*

## INTRODUCTION



We all make mistakes. The humble will admit their mistakes, the proud don't. Humility is a prerequisite for prosperity.

A person may be rich, but not *prosperous*. Prosperity includes being well-respected, having life, good health, and a clear conscience.

Hiding our mistakes may seem like the easier option but it will lead to future trouble.



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## COMMENTARY

There is a natural tendency in human nature to be so ashamed of our **transgressions**, errors, sins, mistakes, shortcomings, and failings that we want to **conceal** them. This tendency is not new. It's hardwired in human nature. It can be traced back to our first parents who blamed others from their own transgression (Genesis 3:12-13).

Dawson Trotman, the founder of *The Navigators* said, "He who makes no mistakes does nothing. He who makes too many mistakes loses his job!" Transgressions and mistakes are inevitable. It's human nature to hide our mistakes but that's neither helpful nor right.

## Owning Our Errors



Until we take personal responsibility for our mistakes we are powerless to correct them. So long as we blame another, we are unable to change, since, by blaming another, we are relinquishing personal control. In effect, by blaming another party we make ourselves powerless. This is the classic cop-out.

If a person accepts personal responsibility then he is able to act to resolve the infraction. When we **confess**, the circle of confession should match the circle of transgression. If we sin against three people then we do not need to confess the sin to fifty people. *The confessing and forsaking should be directed toward those who have been affected.* We should not hide our transgressions but neither do we need to advertise them to those unaffected, as if a social self-affliction could atone for our own sins.

## Compassion Brings Comfort

The promised **compassion** can come from God directly or through people since God often uses other people to do his work. Compassion may be demonstrated through a restored friendship. It may include gifts. The text reminds us that, although we need food, clothing, and material goods to stay alive, for us to really prosper we also need genuine friendships.

In Joshua 7:19-25 Achan confessed his sin—but only under pressure. He received severe judgment rather than compassion. The best confessions are quick and voluntary. They are most likely to attract mercy and compassion.



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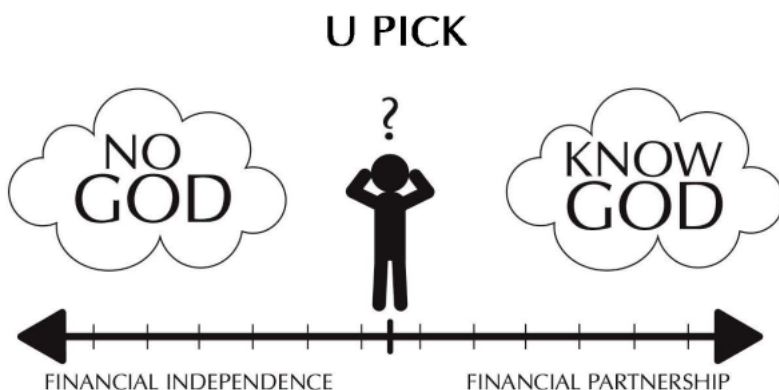
## Repentance Means Change



Confession is not enough to find compassion. We must also *forsake* our evil (and harmful) practices. Also receiving mercy or compassion does not necessarily mean increasing in wealth. To admit our errors takes much humility. To err is human and to forgive is divine, but to get divine forgiveness, which we all need, we must admit and forsake our faults. “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble,” James 4:6.

## Walking with God

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they hid themselves from God. When they heard Him walking in the garden, they chose not to walk with Him (Genesis 3:8). In contrast, Enoch one of their great, great grandsons, walked with God (Genesis 5:24). I believe when Enoch sinned, he quickly admitted and forsook his sin. Noah also walked with God (Genesis 6:9). Walking with God means seeking Him, coming to Him as we are, and then letting Him lead the walk. When it comes to money matters, each of us must choose to move in the direction of financial independence or financial partnership. In the diagram below financial partnership is a choice you make to fly solo or with another person—God. Humility required! The diagram shows a line with gradients, indicating degrees of surrender. Usually, full surrender does not come immediately. Finally, a financial partnership with God is not an equal partnership but a pleasant one (Matthew 11:28,29,30).



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## OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND FRIEND

Admit our mistakes? Jesus did the exact opposite! Not only did He never admit to any transgressions, He even dared his enemies to find fault with Him. “Which one of you convicts me of sin?” (John 8:46) . Amazing! Jesus claimed to be perfect.

Pilate said, “I find no guilt in him,” (John 18:38). Elsewhere we read that “He was tempted in all things as we are yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15). This sinless aspect of Jesus Christ made it possible for Him to be the spotless lamb (Exodus 12:5). The death of a perfect lamb was foreshadowed by the Jewish Passover—blood of an innocent victim to atone for the sins of God’s people.

Since Jesus had no transgressions (no mistakes) of His own, His death could be applied to the account of others.

## APPLICATION

- Memorize the text in your favourite Bible translation and think about it often.
- Admit your mistakes when you make them—the sooner the better.
- Study Psalm 32, especially Psalm 32:3-5 to understand the benefits of admitting our mistakes.
- Accept responsibility for an error, and take appropriate steps not to repeat it.

Which of these steps, if any, does Jesus want you to take now? Ask Him.



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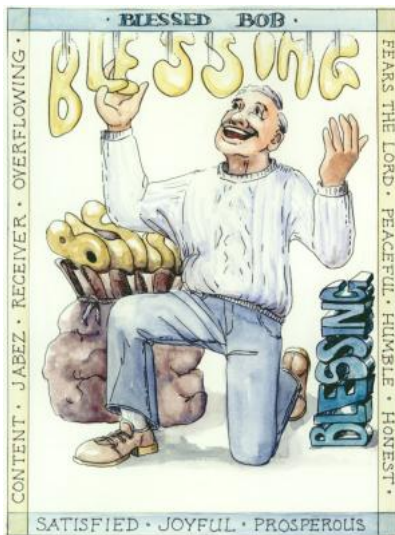
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## KEY WORDS

compassion, dishonesty, ethics, humility, integrity, love, prosperity, rebellious, responsibility, transgression, worse life (quality)

## ILLUSTRATION

[Who is Blessed Bob?](#)



Blessed Bob is very fortunate. He recognizes that good things come from God! God is shunned by many, but not by Bob. Bob loves God. He wants to receive all the good things that God has for him. He's not too proud to ask God for help. In fact, Bob prays often. Some think that he prays without ceasing. But he is not without fault. Blessed Bob makes many mistakes, and when he does, he admits his errors. He corrects them and presses on.

Bob gets so many blessings he feels overwhelmed. His cup overflows. But he doesn't hoard his blessings. Like Generous Genevieve, Blessed Bob likes to give to others. He is truly prosperous, even though there are many who are financially richer than he is.

We see examples of Blessed Bob in the Bible in the lives of Job and Joseph. Job went through some very good times (Job 29:2-25) and some very bad times (Job 2:7-8). Joseph had similar financial cycles (Genesis 39:2,21). Both men kept their focus on God, not on their financial condition (Job 1:21, Genesis 50:19-21).

More recently we have examples of those who have lived with the same life focus. R. G. LeTourneau was the inventor of the largest earth moving machines in the 1930's and 1940's. He credited God for his tremendous success. He gave away much of his wealth while he was



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still living saying that, "When I shovel money out to God's interests, God shovels money back to me, but God's shovel is bigger than mine." He was called the mover of men and mountains because of his great work and influence. On his gravestone, R. G. LeTourneau left all visitors with these words, SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU MATTHEW 6:33.

Blessed Bob is full of joy. He is satisfied with life!

