

How to Break the Power of My Secrets

May 17 & 18, 2008

Shame causes all of us to hide - *When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord.....*

Genesis chapter 3 verse 8 (4)

Hiding is dumb because God always finds us - *The Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"* *Genesis chapter 3 verse 9 (4)*

"Being real" is important because God is real - *This is the message He has given us to announce to you: God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all.*

1 John chapter 1 verse 5 (941)

- With God, what you see is what you get
- He isn't one thing in public, another in private

"Being real" is important because Jesus is real - *...the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would testify against Jesus.... But their efforts were in vain.* *Mark chapter 14 verse 55 (776)*

- Jesus' enemies tried to find people who would show that Jesus was not who or what he claimed to be
- ...and they couldn't find one person to contradict Jesus!

Christ-followers are supposed to be like Jesus - *Follow God's example in everything you do, because you are His dear children.* *Ephesians chapter 5 verse 1 (897)*

- We need to be real!

God already knows my secrets & loves me anyway! *God, you spread out our sins before You, our secret sins, and You see them all.* *Psalms 90 verse 8 (455)*

(over)

So why should I stop keeping my secrets??

Hiding isolates me & victory is impossible in isolation! *A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*

Ecclesiastes chapter 4 verse 12 (507)

- Two are good, three are even better

Being honest keeps me humble - *God opposes the proud but favors the humble.*

1 Peter chapter 5 verse 5 (937)

- I need all of God's favor in my life that I can get!!

Being honest lets me experience God's power - *Three different times I begged the Lord to take it (the weakness!) away. Each time He said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.* *Corinthians chapter 12 verses 8 & 9 (888)*

- Notice that the power (*dunamis* - *miraculous power!*) of God is shown in me thru my weakness!!
- God allows weaknesses to remain in my life to teach me dependence on Him

Being honest gives the power to God, NOT my weakness - *Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin.* *Romans chapter 3 verses 23-25 (859)*

- As a Christ-follower, I'm forgiven, cleansed, set free

Being honest gives me the ability to help others - *God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.* *2 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 4 (882)*

- Often my most passionate message comes out of the area of my greatest hurt
- Those who deny their pain & wounds will only ever have surface relationships with others. And instead of comfort, they will only ever have "pat" answers to give & will be seen as "plastic" by others

Next weekend: A Communion service and the topic, "How to find the strength to go on"