

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## HIDDEN SINS WITHIN OUR HEARTS

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*

### Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	God does not want us to hide the sins of our heart, but to acknowledge and repent of them.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is truth, and He wants us to be truthful. God is merciful, and He wants us to repent of our sins. God is holy, and He wants us to be holy.
<i>Good Works</i>	Determine to leave the bondage of sin through self-examination that leads to confession, repentance, and a desire for holiness.

### A. The Consequence of Sin

Hidden sins can have serious consequences, many that we cannot undo. The worst consequence is that it separates us from God (Isa 59:2). A life of hidden sin is a life that leads to death (Rom 6:23).

### B. How to Face our Hidden Sins

1. *God sees our hidden sins:* Those who believe they are free of sin are only deceiving themselves (1 Jn 1:8). Instead of trying to hide or ignore our sins, we should face our own mistakes, acknowledge our sins, and confess them before God, because we cannot hide them from Him.
2. *Repenting of our hidden sins:* We can only repent of mistakes that we have acknowledged.

### C. Hidden Sins in the Bible

1. *Achan’s hidden sin:* Achan’s failed God’s first test of faith, and he and his household, in addition to the Israelites slain by the people of Ai, suffered the consequences.
2. *David’s hidden sin:* David’s lack of perception was such that he could not understand that the prophet Nathan’s story was about himself. Even if it is hidden, our sin has the potential to affect both ourselves and those around us, including those we love most.

### D. Be Truthful, Repent, and Be Holy

1. *God is truth, and He wants us to be truthful:* When we try to hide our sins, we are lying both to ourselves, and to God. If we respect and revere Him, we will be honest and true to Him.
2. *God is merciful, and He wants us to repent:* When we make the choice to acknowledge our sins, we are humbling our hearts and being honest with both God and ourselves.
3. *God is holy, and He wants us to be holy:* Holiness is both inward and outward. It is in our actions, and also in our hearts.

### E. Lust, Pride, and Idolatry (1 Jn 2:16; Col 3:5)

Lust, pride, and idolatry often lie at the root of hidden sins. The three can work together and hide secretly within our hearts, easily hidden from human eyes. But we can overcome sin by remembering the blood that Jesus shed, by living according to God’s word so that our lives testify of Him, and by loving God more than anything, including our own lives (Rev 12:11).

### Life Application

1. Self-Examination, Acknowledgement, and Confession
2. Repent of Hidden Sins
3. Have a Strong Desire for Holiness

