

IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS

Psalm 19:12

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The old saying "ignorance is bliss" perhaps has a good point now and then, but when dealing with faults and sins, it is bad to be unknowing of what all is wrong. The Psalmist knew himself well enough to know that there were some things in his life that were wrong, even sinful and that only God knew what they were, so he asked God to remove all those bad things that he didn't know about. It would be good for every Christian to consider what David, the Psalmist, discovered about himself, there were some things wrong that he didn't know about that needed removing.

I. THERE ARE SINS AND WRONGS IN ONE'S LIFE THAT HE/SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT

1. Everyone has his/her private, secret faults in his/her life that only God knows about and maybe a close friend or two and maybe some family members.
 - There are wrongs/sins that people do in business matters but those wrongs never get beyond the business part of one's life.
 - There are wrongs/sins that people do everyday that nobody else knows about.
 - David, the Psalmist, realizes that God knows him thoroughly and that there are sins that he was committing which he didn't even know he was doing, and he asked God to take care of those for him.
2. Everyone sees faults, weaknesses, sins in other people's lives that they are not aware of.
 - There are some who have such faults and weaknesses that were there but just were never visible until this or that happened and then the faults came out.
 - Those who have such faults didn't even know that they had committed them, they were blind to them all the while.
 - Everyone needs to remember that all people are made alike and have weaknesses, are sinful and have faults and sins within their own lives that they are not even aware of either.
 - Seeing the "mote" in someone's eye is proof that one has something in his/her eye also.
3. People don't really know their own real selves/nature.
 - Everyone has invisible, secret, positive possibilities, things not yet discovered.
 - Remember Paul (Saul) being converted on the road to Damascus and how his life was changed into a life of undreamed of fullness?
 - Something comes along and changes one's entire life inside and out, making the person a totally different person.
 - There is as well hidden, secret faults, weaknesses, sinfulness within each person that need God's cleansing.

II. HABIT, ROUTINE AND REPETITION CAN DEADEN ONE'S AWARENESS

1. People who live in noisy places, such as near an airport, a train track, a busy highway where there is noise night and day are not aware of such noise for they have become accustomed to it and therefore are not bothered.

- A new person to such a noisy place will be bothered, upset, and unable to rest or sleep for they have not adjusted to all the disturbance, but with time, although the noise is still there.
2. Habit, routine and repetition work the same way in a person's moral and spiritual life.
 - There can be a time when a certain thought, act or words would cause one to blush and be upset, but if exposed often and long enough, such things don't bother that person any longer.
 - Satan uses this strategy with everyone, making sins to be secret, causing people to become so accustomed to certain faults, sins that they no longer are even aware of them.
 - What a person once hated, despised, avoided can become a very part of that person, secretly.
 3. Because of habit and custom, bringing a numbness, an unawareness, a hardness, every Christian needs to pray the Psalmist's prayer for God to cleanse him/her from every unknown sin/fault.

III. SECRET FAULTS, SINS ARE VERY DANGEROUS

1. Open sins are visible, heard, felt, known and therefore one can guard against, be watchful for, take steps to avoid but secret faults and sins happen unexpectedly, "out of the blue" and bring hurt, harm, destruction and separation from the Lord Jesus.
2. Secret faults, sins are like termites that secretly eat away at foundations and walls of one's house, not noticed until one day everything falls in. Not seen, not heard, no warning but then - it happens.
 - "...*cleanse thou me from secret faults...*"

CONCLUSION:

1. Knowing, realizing that one has secret, unknown faults and sins, should lead every Christian to the Lord Jesus asking what the Psalmist did, "...*cleanse thou me from my secret faults...*"
2. Consider a garden where a weed or two comes up, such is not hard to pull up, that is like one's visible, aware of sins.
 - Consider a garden where the soil is contaminated with underground roots of all kinds, not visible on the top, but beneath a great entanglement of weedy, thorny, poison ivy, etc., such is the life of every person for there are secret faults and sins, unseen, unknown of.
3. A garden is like one's heart, some faults and sins are out of a few habits and can be removed by one's repentance, but when one awakens to what is hidden, lying beneath the surface, one realizes his/her utter helplessness.
4. Christian, God knows you inside and out, your strengths, visible and hidden and He knows your sins and weaknesses, visible and hidden. Jesus is with you and wants to cleanse every part of you. Go to Him, pray the Psalmist's prayer..."...*Cleanse thou me from my secret faults...*"