

## James 5:16

“Confess therefore  
your offences to one  
another, and pray for  
one another...”

I was thinking of this verse recently in connection to how people see you and how you see others.

If you see someone as flawless and beautiful, it's intimidating & can make that person unapproachable.

Just the same as if you see someone who appears to be so close to God, walking remarkably well in their Christian path before God, you may be less likely to share a struggle with them for fear of appearing inferior.

If someone shares their struggles with you it makes it so much easier to share yours with them. This is especially true for spiritual struggles as it not only strengthens your spiritual link with that person but can sometimes show a much clearer path to bridging the gap you might feel in your relationship with Jesus.

Pretending to be in an amazing, close relationship with God publicly but being miles away from Him privately helps no one. God knows exactly where you are with him. He knows everyone struggles in different ways but the struggles are made so much easier when you share them and bring them before Him.

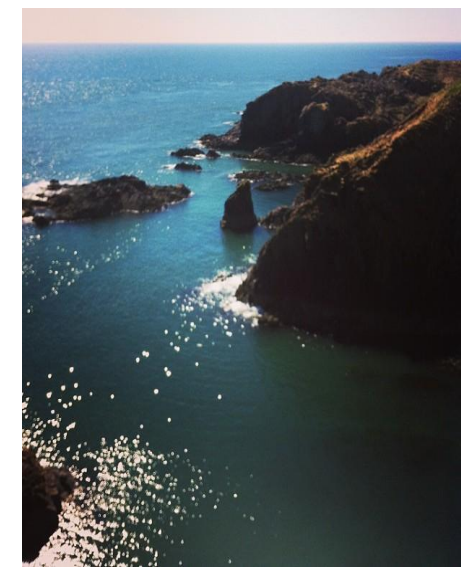
I always find that praying with a person who is struggling in their Christian pathway so helpful, a friend prayed for me recently & hearing her place my troubles before the Father was so comforting. This verse reminds us of the power of prayer & to share our trials, using God as a first resort, not a last.

Hymn  
(Little Flock hymn book by  
J.N Darby)

“O Lord, Thy love's unbounded,  
So sweet, so full, so free;  
My soul is all transported  
Whene'er I think of Thee!

Yet Lord, alas! What weakness  
Within myself I find;  
No infant's changing pleasure  
Is like my wandering mind.

O keep my soul then Jesus,  
Abiding still with Thee,  
And if I wander teach me  
Soon back to Thee to flee.”



## THE WEE LEAFLET

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Melanie Gardiner  
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melestelle.gardiner@live.co.uk



### **Sin Wants You Alone.**

Recently when chatting about the last chapter of James epistle my friend Courtney Johnston, pictured above, stated that “sin wants you alone.” I’d never thought about that before but it made so much sense and really stuck with me so I asked her to expand on her thought and she shared the following account:

Sin is a distortion and dislocation of the heart from its true centre in God. This distortion is expressed as a basic motive for all human life - the heart desire of every person to be his or her own saviour and Lord. (Romans 1:21-25)

Any way we try to handle a situation without Gods expert help, we design a bigger mess for ourselves.

However, just as important as feeling rightfully guilty over our sins is to realise that God has the power to and will forgive us upon

our repentance.

Forgiveness is a big stress-reliever!  
“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us If we say that we have not sinned, we make God out to be a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:8-10 NIV)

Sin wants you alone. Did you know that? Sin wants to isolate you. Sin doesn’t want anybody who shouldn’t know, to know.

As long as sin is private and secret, you can nurture it and feed it. If a person tries to hide their sin then it almost always leads to more sin in the form of cover ups, lies and hurts people that depend on them. God wants it open and out among people who love you. Be honest. Share your struggles. Let people know you’re in battle so that you don’t become weak, defeated, weary, exhausted, victimised and angry. Open up, share and seek forgiveness with one another (James 5:16).

Don’t let yourself go down to the point of spiritual weakness driven by your sin because you never dealt with it and the reason you never dealt with it was because it was allowed to keep you...alone.

Don’t let it happen.

“Whoever conceals their sins will not prosper”  
(Proverbs 28:13 NIV)

### **Barnabi Section**

#### **Isaiah 30 v21**

“And when ye turn to the right hand or turn to the left, thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying this is the way, walk ye in it.”

It’s just to have that assurance that there is the voice to hear that can keep us on the path he has chosen, the path of blessing. Actually while I’m typing this my mind went to the end of John

where the Lord is asking Peter to follow him, and Peter asks about John and the reply is 'What is it to thee?'

We are to each to individually and simply follow the Lord in our lives and not look around or turn to the right or the left, or we will sink. Of course the Lord is able to get us out of that mess too, like when Peter cried out Lord save me when he was sinking and the Lord stretched out an arm.

David Barlow, age 22

#### **Hebrews 6:19 (NIV)**

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm & secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.”  
This verse helped me through a tough lonely time whilst applying for uni. I got rejected by a number of universities and had a bad break up but this truth gave me an anchor, a rock.

Steven Hamilton, age 24