

Supplement #2 to Spiritual Warfare Study Sheet

Psalm 19:12-14

Psalm 19:12-14 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Background to this prayer→ Psalm 19:10, “More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.” It is impossible to overestimate the **great value** of the word of God in our lives. The word of God is **valuable** (Job 23: 12; Ps. 119: 162) and **pleasant** (Ps. 119:97,103; 1 Pet. 2: 2). If it is not pleasant to us it means that we are in bad spiritual condition→1 John 5: 3.

Ps. 19: 11, “Moreover by them is thy servant **warned**: and in keeping of them there is **great reward**.” God sends us warnings in His word and we are foolish if we do not heed them. Satan tells us there is no advantage in keeping God’s word, but he is a great deceiver and a liar→Ps. 73: 13; Gal. 6: 7. Spurgeon says of this warning, “On the sea of life there would be many more wrecks, if it were not for the divine storm signals, which give to the watchful a timely warning.”

Verse 12→These “secret faults” are sins that we ourselves are not aware of. Leupold says, “They are the sins that we ordinarily do not even discern as being committed by us.” Speaking of these sins Spurgeon says, “We have but a very few sins which we can observe and detect, compared with those which are hidden from ourselves...” See Jer. 17:9. Sins we are unaware of are very dangerous, because they may lead to greater sins. Spurgeon says of this, “Secret sins, like private conspirators, must be hunted out, or they may do deadly mischief; it is well to be much in prayer concerning them.” We must recognize the **progressive** nature of sin and realize that we cannot play with it→James 1:13-15.

Let us have a **sensitive heart** about secret sins as did **David** (Ps. 139:23, and 24) and **Paul** (Acts 24:16).

What are some “secret sins” that we may be guilty of? _____

_____.

We can discover some of our “secret sins” by: **1)** Asking God to show them to us. **2)** Graciously accepting and evaluating criticism. (Having a “learner’s spirit→Prov. 15:12; 29:1; 13:1; 15:32). **3)** Asking others we trust to point out our faults to us. (Prov. 27: 6). **4)** Observing godly people and comparing our lives to theirs. (Prov. 13:20). **5)** Constantly reading the Scriptures and comparing ourselves with the standards that are revealed in them→ 2 Tim. 3:16,17.

Verse 13→ The word translated “presumptuous” is used 13 times in the Old Testament. Twelve of those times it is translated as “proud.” We sin in this way when we do it willfully, knowing that what we are doing is wrong. The godless **reprobates** always sin in this way→Rom. 1: 32. Many times God’s children also do so when they become spiritually weak. That is why we always must practice **self-denial**→Luke 9: 23. I like what Matthew Henry says about this→ “We have great need to pray to God, when we are pushing forward towards a presumptuous sin, to keep us back from it, either by his providence preventing the temptation or by his grace giving us victory over it.”

Spurgeon says of these presumptuous sins, “This earnest and humble prayer teaches us that saints may fall into the worst of sins unless restrained by grace, and that therefore they must watch and pray lest they enter into temptation. There is a natural proneness to sin in the best of men, and they must be held back as a horse is held back by the bit or they will run into it.” See Matt. 26: 41.

“Let them not **have dominion** over me.” Robert Sanderson says of this “Any small sin may get the upper hand of the sinner and bring him under in time, and after that is once habituated by long custom so as he cannot easily shake off the yoke...” See also Ps. 119: 133. An example of the **progressive nature** of sin is found in Ps. 1: 1.

When sin does have dominion over an individual the results are horrible. That person becomes a slave to sin. See Prov. 5: 22. See 2. Tim. 2: 26.

Verse 14→Our desire should be to obey God in **thought, word, and deed**.

“The words of my mouth”→See Eph. 4:29; Ps. 141:3.

“The meditations of my heart”→Ps. 1:2. One meaning of “meditate” in the Hebrew is “mutter, or whisper.” The picture is one in **deep thought** talking to himself.

“Be acceptable” has the meaning of “giving pleasure or delight.”

“in Thy sight”→Prov. 15:3

“My strength and my redeemer”→Eph. 6: 0; (John 15:5/Phil. 4:13)

We should **try our hardest** to not sin at all!→Eph. 5:3; 1 John 2:1