



[Proverbs 28:13](#)

(13) He who covers his sins will not prosper,
But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

New King James Version

Four words in this verse—"cover," "prosper," "confesses," and "forsakes"—highlight some valuable instruction for us. According to *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*, these Hebrew words mean:

- » **Cover** (*kacah*, #3680): "to cover, to conceal, to hide."
- » **Prosper** (*tsalach*, #6743): "to advance, to prosper, to make progress, to succeed, to be profitable."
- » **Confesses** (*yadah*, #3034): "to throw, to shoot, to cast" and by extension, "to confess" or even "to praise."
- » **Forsakes** (*'azab*, #5800): "to leave, to loose, to forsake, to let go."

In other words, if we try to hide or ignore our faults, our chances for success in life are dim, but if we admit them and put them behind us, we will have favor. In *The Road Less Traveled*, M. Scott Peck remarks that "it is easier for us to try and forget a problem that we know exists than to deal with it." He states a fundamental [truth](#) about our problems. If we do not deal with a problem—in our case, sin—it will never go away. It will fester, and it will always come up later or manifest itself in a different form.

Spiritually, then, if we are not honest with ourselves about our sins and shortcomings, we will not reach our full, God-given potential. [God](#) can show us our sins, but He cannot and will not force us to overcome—that decision is ours. We must see ourselves for what

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we are and have the desire to make the conscious choice to change. Thus, Paul instructs us in [Philippians 2:12-13](#):

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own [salvation](#) with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

— Staff

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