

**“The
woman
answered
and said,
‘I have no
husband’”**

John 4:17



**To what will
awareness
of my sins
lead me?**



1. Calling things by their right names

- “The woman answered and said, ‘I have no husband’”
John 4:17
- Examples:
 - The white lie
 - Love (instead of lust)
 - Entertainment (instead of ungodly exposures)
 - Friendship (instead of flirting)
 - Not comfortable (instead of hatred)



2. Godly sorrow

- “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation”

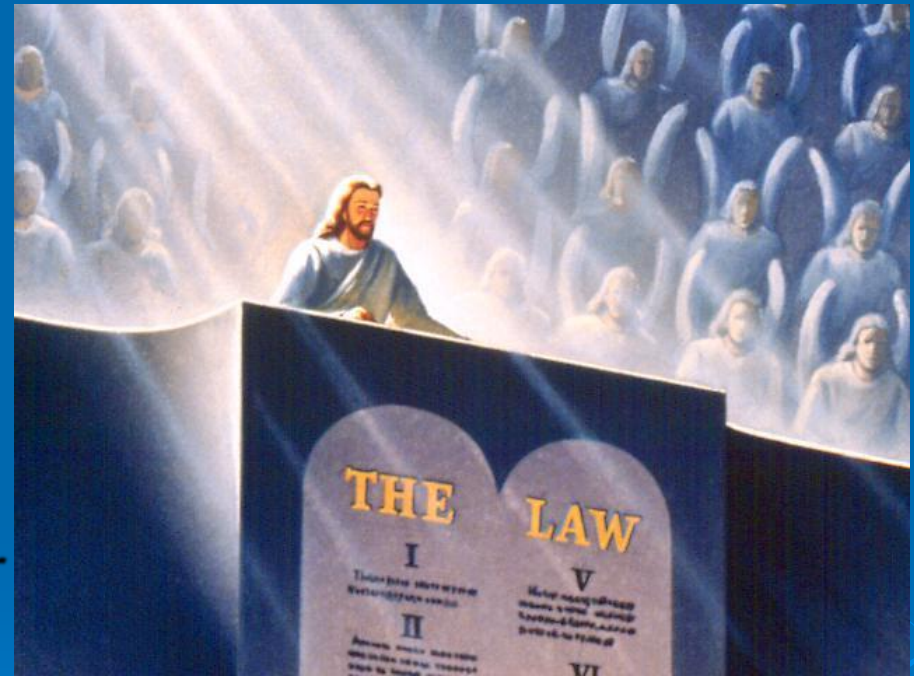
2 Corinthians 7:10

- The healthy guilt that the Samaritan woman felt



3. Godly fear

- “When I realize my many wicked deeds, and the thought of that awesome judgment comes to my heart, a tremble takes hold of me, and I take refuge in You, O God, the Lover of mankind” --*Midnight Prayer*
- *Abba Arsenius*' most remembered moments



4. Accepted prayers

- “...a broken and humbled heart God shall not despise”
Psalm 50
- The prayer of the publican at the door of the temple



5. Relying on God's grace

- “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”

1 Peter 1:13



6. Welcoming suffering

- “let him curse, because the LORD has said to him, ‘Curse David.’ Who then shall say, ‘Why have you done so?’”

2 Samuel 16:10

- “And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.”

Luke 23:41

- The acts of mortification of the body: fasting, metanias, etc.



7. Refraining from judging others

- The story of **St. Moses** when asked to come to judge one of the brethren who sinned
- A brother, who had sinned, was turned out of the church by the priest.
Abba Bessarion got up and went out with him, saying: “I too am a sinner.”



8. Compassion towards those who are struggling

- “Like a god upon this earth, **Abba Macarius** would cover the faults of others, which he saw, as though he did not see them; and those which he heard, as though he did not hear them.”
- **Abba Poemen**: “For my part, when I see a brother falling asleep, I place his head on my knees and let him rest.”



**How are we prevented from
this godly awareness?**



1. Distraction

- By examining others: King David answering Nathan
- Indulgence in sinful life with a growing numbness towards the Word of God
- Busyness
- “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” *Psalm 139: 23-24*



2. Inaccurate scale when measuring ourselves

- “We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise”
2 Corinthians 10:12
- Not being aware of the magnitude of desolation inside my heart: The angel of the church of Laodecia



3. Avoiding rebuke

- Not accepting correction or any form of criticism
- Avoiding confessions and the church all together
- Surrounding myself with those who approve of my deeds

