**OPENING UP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH GOD**

If we want to have an open line of communication with God, then we need to deal with our sin—regularly asking the Holy Spirit to search us and reveal any sin in our lives.

While Scripture indicates that it is *known* sin that blocks communication, it doesn't mean we can "innocently ignore" our sin and think it won't affect us. The fact is that we need to keep a pure heart before God.

James tells us that "anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins" (4:17). These sins of omission, perhaps, derail us more than deliberately doing wrong. If you want to be right before God, prayerfully read through the Bible verses below. Ask questions of God thoughtfully, prayerfully, and honestly. Ask such questions as "Am 1 guilty of not doing what this verse says I should be doing?'" or "Am 1 guilty of commit­ting the sin mentioned?" Every "yes" answer you get is a sin that needs to be confessed—and forgiven.

Here are a few examples of how you might review the verses;

1 Thess. 5:18: "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Do I worry about anything? Have 1 failed to thank God for all things—the seemingly bad as well as (he good?

Ro. 12:3: "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought,"

Am 1 proud of my accomplish­ments, my talents, my family? Do 1 fail to see others as better than myself or more important than myself in the body of Christ? Do 1 think that as a Christian, I am doing quite well?

Phil. 4:8: "Finally, brothers [and sisters], whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be am praise, think on these things" (KJV).

Do 1 enjoy listening to gossip or passing it on? Do 1 believe rumors or partial truths, especially about an enemy or competitor? Do 1 fail to spend time every day reading the Bible? Do 1 fail to think on the things of God—only good and true and pure things—always?

Other verses for study:

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| Eph. 3:20  | Eph. 4:31 | Eph. 4:29  | Eph. 4:27  | Heb. 10:25 |
| Acts 1:8  | 1 Cor. 6:19  | Ro. 12:11b | 1 Cor. 8:9  | Col. 3:9  |
| 1 Pet. 2:11  | Jn. 13:35  | Eph. 4:28 | Eph. 5:16 | Mt. 6:24 |
| Mt. 23:28 |  |  |  |  |

—E. Christenson :