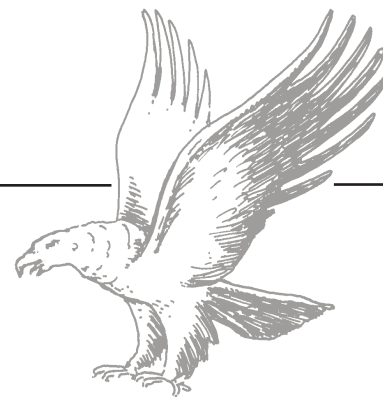


# Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



April 9, 2017

## Hiding From God

Most of the social and psychological problems we struggle with can be traced back to a single root cause: We are desperately trying to hide from an all-knowing God.

*“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. . . . So [Adam] said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’” (Gen. 3:8, 10).*



A lot of heat has been generated in the debate over whether or not Adam and Eve were real people and the events of early Genesis are real history (for the record, my answers are “Yes” and “Yes”). But that debate has obscured a deeper truth about human nature that screams from this story about our first parents’ sin: namely, our desire to hide from the truth of who we are.

Prior to their sin, Adam and Eve enjoyed a full and carefree relationship with God. But their rebellion corrupted that relationship. Adam and Eve’s attempt to hide from God was an instinctive reaction to their fear of being found out. God’s piercing question, “Where are you?” (v. 9) drove that lesson home.

Ever since then, all of Adam’s children have been hiding from God, and “where are you?” has become the defining cry of our existence.

We hide from God by constructing a public identity that either disguises or distracts from who we really are. That identity can take any number of forms, but in every case, the external persona is merely a cover-up, an effort to mask the guilt and self-doubt that we are desperate to keep hidden.

In his 2012 book, *Hide & Seek: The Psychology of Self-Deception*, Oxford psychiatrist Neel Burton described over three dozen distinct strategies that we use—like denial, repression, uncontrolled anger, intellectualization, dramatization, projection, and so on—to convince others (and ourselves) that we are something other than what we really are. These elaborate hoaxes we play on ourselves set up an internal dissonance that fuels anxiety, or in extreme cases, mental disorders.

The modern “solution” to this problem is to proudly parade whatever distorted identity I choose to adopt,

whether homosexuality, or transgenerism, or transracialism, or whatever the cultural fad is this year. These behaviors are themselves efforts to hide from God, as evidenced by the high rates of mental disease and suicide among those who try to “find themselves” in these disordered lifestyles.

“Who I really am” is what God created me to be, and I cannot express the “real” me until I gain a healthy understanding of, and respect for, God’s view of my identity. That perspective involves embracing two fundamental truths: First, *I am more deeply flawed than I care to admit*; and second, *I am more deeply loved than I dare to believe*. Only by embracing the first can I recognize my failures and shortcomings; only by embracing the second can I make progress toward improving them.

When humanity tried to hide from God, He began a search to find us. Instead of hiding from Him, we should surrender our foolish pride and run to Him. In His tender embrace our fear and guilt will melt away, and we will discover the joy of an honest life.

– David King