

# Little Foxes

*The Sins of Believers*

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The children of God generally do not fall into great and well known sins, but there are sins that they commit often, according to the Word of God. These sins are like little foxes which spoil the vine (our lives) and we become fruitless. But what are these sins? Here are some of them. 1. *To know to do good but not to do it* (James 4:17). The Lord has commended us again and again that we should always do good to all, especially to the household of faith (Galatians 6:9, 10; Titus 2:14; Matthew 25:34, 35). The Lord Jesus was an example to us in this respect. We read in Acts 10:38 that "He went about doing good". How slow we are in obeying this command!

2. *Not praying for others (prayerlessness)*. *1 Samuel 12:23*. We often pray for ourselves, for members of our families, for our church, but we forget to pray for the Lord's servants, for missionaries, for the sick, for kings and for all that are in authority, and also for many others (Ephesians 6:17, 18; 1 Timothy 2:1, 2). This is one of the "little foxes". We must pray for all.

3. *The sin of making decisions and taking steps without faith* (Romans 14:23). Yes, anything that is not according to the Word of God is not of faith (Isaiah 8:20). Many Christians decide and do things without going to the Scriptures to know the mind of God. Others spoil their lives with unequal yokes or wrong companionship (2 Corinthians 6:14). What a pity!

4. The sin of *respect of persons* or *pleasing man rather than God* (James 2:1-9; Galatians 1:10). This sin is common in many churches. More work or positions are given to the rich or to the educated rather than to the spiritual persons who are not rich or educated. Let us beware of respect of persons.

5. The sin of *not giving enough to God* (Malachi 3:8, 10; Luke 6:38). This is a fact—that the Lord's people do not give enough to God. In Old Testament times the Israelites used to give tithes and also gifts to God. Now, we do not give half as much. Many rob God saying, "We are not under the Law." If Old Testament saints gave tithes and gifts to the Lord, can we give less? Read Genesis 14:20; 28:22; Matthew 23:23. Let us pray that the Lord will keep us from this sin and teach us to give as He commanded us to give (2 Corinthians 9:6).

6. *Not seeking first the Kingdom of God* (Matthew 6:33). We have time for our own personal needs. We work hard to make more money, even sometimes forsaking the meetings, but have not time to study the Word of God; for prayer; for visitation and taking the Gospel to the unsaved. This is another sin which has ruined many lives.

7. *The sin of lying* (Colossians:9). Many times we lie without realizing it. We sing with loud voices, "have Thine Own Way, Lord", but we haven't real consecration. We sing, "take my silver and my gold", but when the time comes to give, we give very little. We testify but we do not live accordingly. Brethren, let us be doers of the Word (James 1:22).

8. The sin of *not loving the brethren* as the Lord commanded us to love (John 15:12; James 2:8; 1 John 3:16, 18). The Lord said, "Love each other as I have loved you". Often we love by lips only but not by deeds. Some love only those who love them or are near to them but they have no love for those who differ from them. Let us learn to love our brethren as ourselves.

My dear brethren, kill these little foxes that you may not be fruitless. Let us pray that the Lord will save us from these sins so that we may live and glorify the Saviour Who loved us and gave Himself from us.