

## Genesis 3:10

*So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."*

Here is a weird question to start your day off with. Have you ever considered praying naked? "What? Can you even say that here?" You may be thinking, but hang in there with me on this one.

I don't know about you, but I'm no spring chicken anymore. In fact I turned 60 earlier this year, and with age, your body does not seem to be like it was when you were in your teens or 20's. Fortunately for me I never really had a weight problem, and my wife envies me because I can eat anything and barely gain any weight at all. But still, my body looks nothing like it did 40 years ago, and as you go on in life you discover how to dress to help hide those imperfections. But with the summer being here, because of the current pandemic, most people do not have their so called bathing suit, or bikini body, and some of us never have it anytime of the year, so we cover those imperfections with creative ways of dressing.

Even James mentions this as well.

† **James 1:23-24** *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.*

Isn't it the same with our bodies? We dress to hide those imperfections, and when we walk past a mirror or see our reflection in a store window, we look at ourselves we thinking that we don't really look that bad. But when we get home and remove all the clothing, and exposing all our imperfections to ourselves under the lighting of a well lite bathroom mirror, we realize we are not all we pretend to be.

So, with all of that in mind, let me ask the same question again. Have you ever considered praying naked? Still sounds weird, doesn't it? Why, because like Adam and Even, we are ashamed of who we are, so we get dressed to hide our imperfections, maybe not with fig leaves, but still our clothing serves the same type of cover of our embarrassment as the fig leaves did for Adam and Eve.

But if you think about it, when we come before the Lord. we don't actually do it with clothing (but sometimes we do, depending on the sin), instead we come up with excuses to hide our sins when we pray or even approach the Lord in prayer. We use others as our fig leaf to hide our shame. We use TV and movies and how bad it is as an excuse why we are the way we are. We use social media to blame any, and everyone but ourselves.

We use our comparison to others as an excuse as a fig leaf, thinking that I am not as bad as he or she is, so God should accept or like me more because I am not like them.

No, in reality, we never pray naked, because we always have something, or even someone we can use as a fig leaf to hide our sins from the Lord.

But if you read the Adam and Eve account in Genesis, even though they tried to hide their sin with fig leaves, they still could not hide their sin before God. Because just like lead will stop Superman to see through something, fig leaves or nothing else will stop God from seeing everything you are trying to hide. Because God sees the naked truth about each and everyone one of us.

† **Genesis 3:8** *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.*

† **Psalm 139:8** *If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*

† **Psalm 32:5 (NLT2)** *Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Interlude*