November 23rd – Sins of Omission

*"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."*
(James 4:17)

The Bible is very clear that all of us are sinners.  Paul said, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).  Humans commit sins every day – we say something we shouldn't have said, we look at something we shouldn't have looked at, we go somewhere we shouldn't have gone, etc.  Thankfully the blood of Jesus is enough to cover all our sins!  But, did you know that our greatest sins are not sins of commission?  They're often sins of omission.

Here's what I mean – unfortunately we often do things that are displeasing to God.  But there are many times we simply fail to do what God wants us to do.  In those cases, it's not that we *committed* a sin, it's that we sinned by *omitting* the plan of God from our lives.  For example, who among us has not sensed the leadership of the Holy Spirit to stop and pray, but we said to ourselves, "I'm too busy."  Or, the Spirit directed us to witness to someone but we said, "There's no way I can do that."

When I spend time confessing my sins to God, it's seems that I always bear more sin based on what I didn't do rather than what I did do.  The point James makes in today's verse is very clear – if we know the will of God and don't do it, we are just as guilty as if we had broken one of his commands.  So, now would probably be a good time to do a spiritual inventory.  Has God been leading you to do something for His glory?  Have you done it?  If not, what do you intend to do about it?