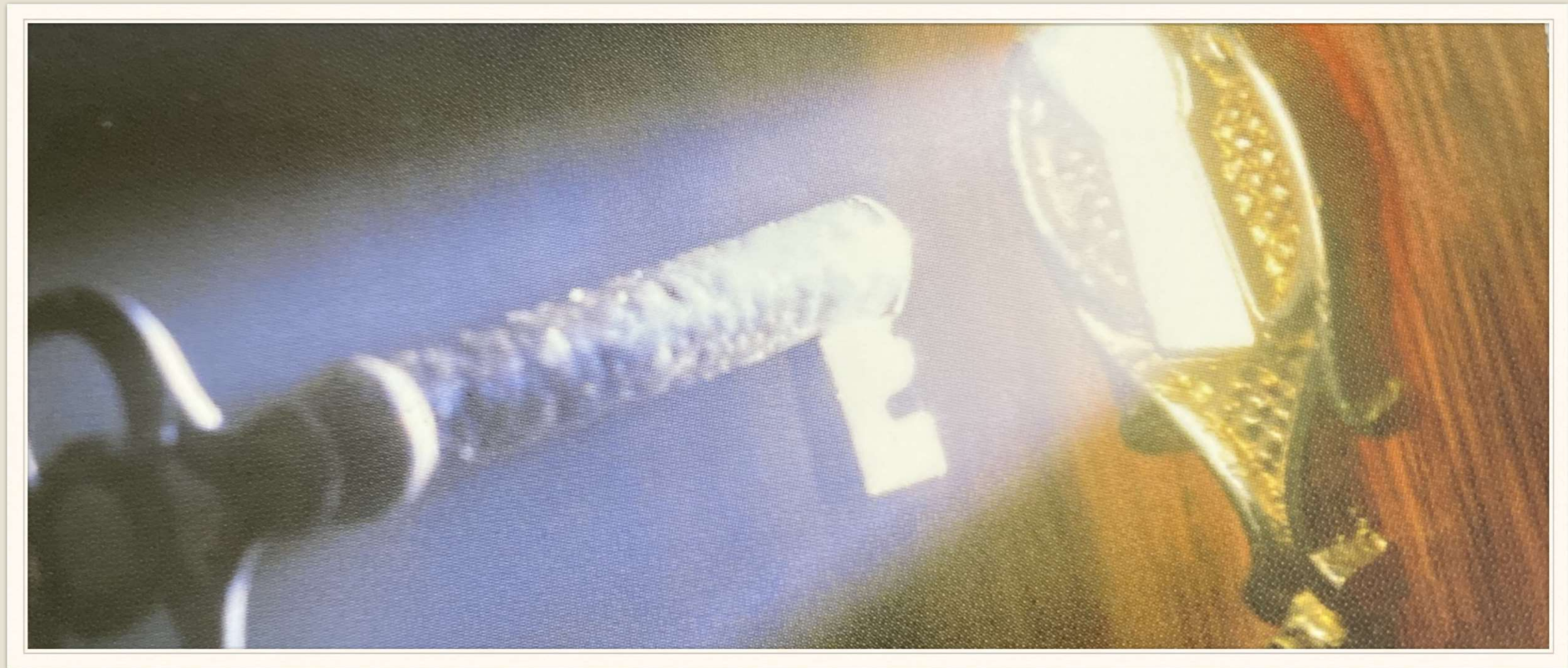


# THE SECRET KEY TO HEAVEN



The Vital Importance of Private Prayer — by Thomas Brooks



“But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

*Matthew 6:6*

# THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE PRAYER

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- ❖ All Christians are called to pray (Colossians 4:2)
- ❖ Closet prayer is hard work and admittedly difficult
- ❖ The goal is to be “*faithful & conscientious*” in prayer
- ❖ To “addict” yourself to prayer, beware of 5 things

# WORLDLINESS

beware of engaging  
yourselves in a crowd of  
worldly concerns



# WORLDLINESS

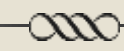
- ❖ We are finite creatures with limited time and energy.
- ❖ Nothing is more important than communion with God
- ❖ Setting our minds too much on earthly things is a danger
- ❖ It is easy to get distracted by the world & forget God



“There is nothing that has kept men more from Christ and closet prayer, than the shop, exchange, the farm, and the oxen, etc. (Luke 14:16-22).”

*–Thomas Brooks*

# SECRET SIN



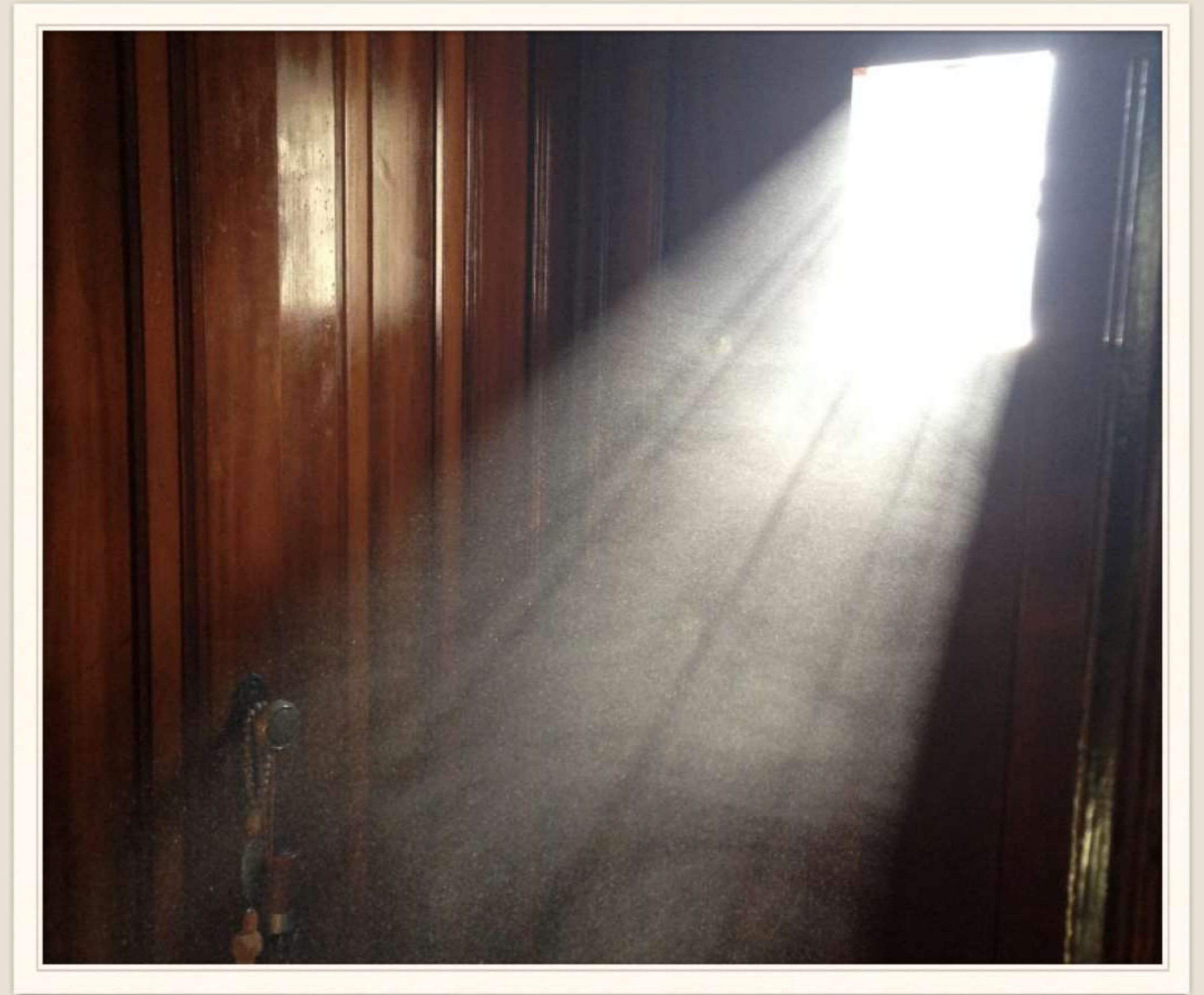
beware of secret sins



# SECRET SIN

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- ❖ God is privy to our most secret sins



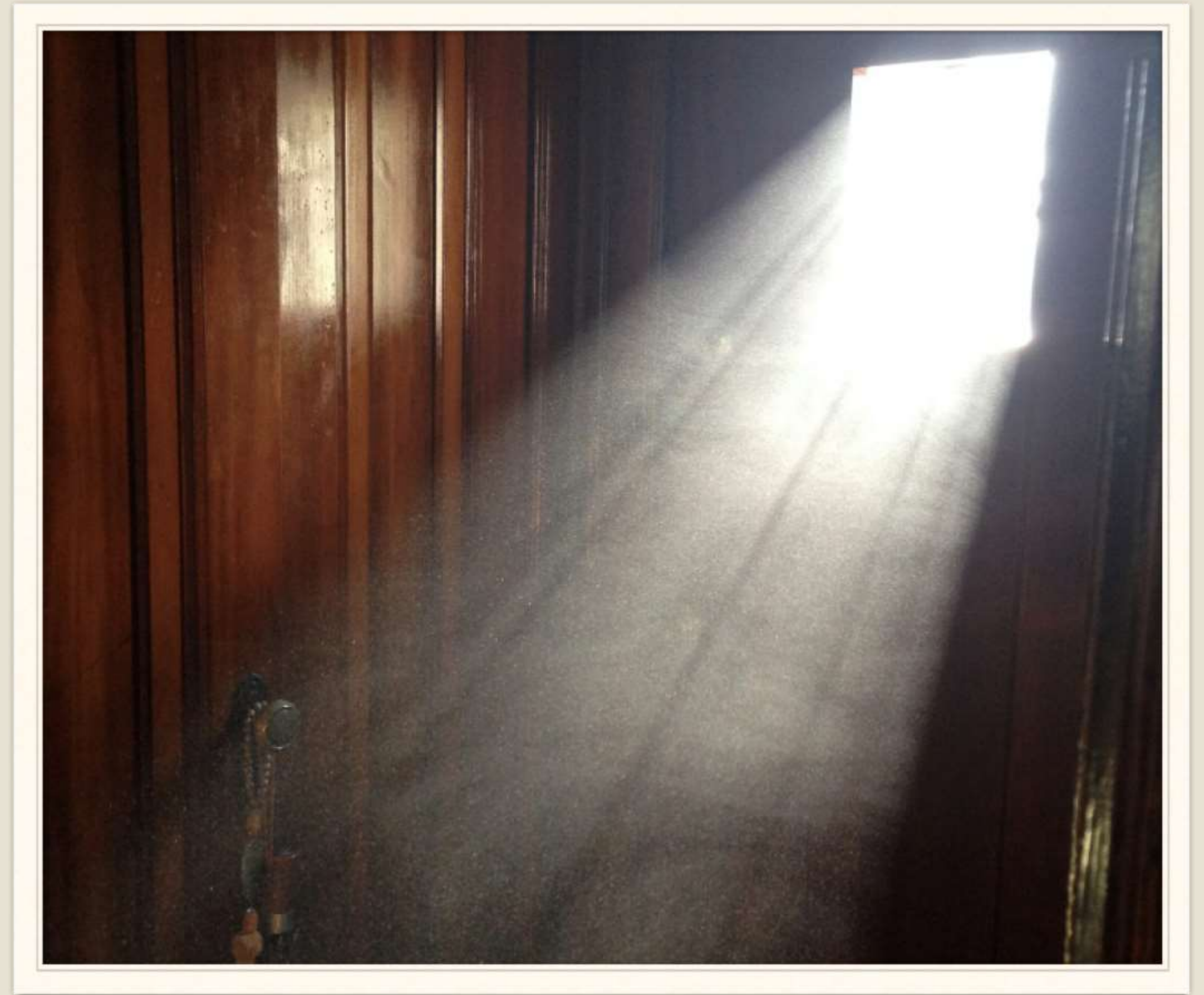


“Those sins which lie closest and are most secretly lurking in the heart, are as obvious and odious to God as those that are most openly written upon a man’s forehead.”

*–Thomas Brooks*

# SECRET SIN

- ❖ God is privy to our most secret sins
- ❖ Secret sins will be revealed
- ❖ God sometimes makes secret sins known openly
- ❖ Secret sins are dangerous



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, ***let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,*** and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

***Hebrews 12:1-2***