

Russell Kelfer

The Truth Will Set You Free

723-B

Series: God's Living Legends (Part 1)

dtm DISCIPLESHIP TAPE MINISTRIES, INC.
INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230 • (210) 226-0000 / 1-800-375-7778 • www.dtm.org • dtm@dtm.org

The Truth Will Set You Free

What would you say if I told you that there was someone who has never told the truth? Suppose now that I told you that there was someone who has never told a lie. How many would believe that? What if I capped those two statements with this one: the one who has never told the truth and the one who has never told a lie are at war with each other, and the battlefield of the conflict centers around whether or not you and I will tell the truth. I mean the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The truth about your age. The truth about your weight. The truth about your neighbor. The truth about your product. The truth about your taxes. The truth about the Gospel. The whole truth. That is what is happening on planet earth right now. The stakes are so high that they must be measured on the yardstick of eternity, for the consequences are eternal consequences. It is still, you see, an issue of integrity. The issue at stake is truth.

There is someone who has never told the truth and cannot tell the truth. His name is Satan. Jesus said this about Satan in John 8:

Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:44)

Let's journey to the garden of Eden for confirmation. Genesis 3:

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, "Yea, hath God indeed said, 'Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden;

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

The Truth Will Set You Free

Then the serpent said unto the woman, “You will not surely die.

For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

(Genesis 3:1-5 NKJV)

In other words, “God just doesn’t want any competition. If you eat from that tree, you will be just like He is, God.”

Sometime take that passage and analyze Satan’s statement and see if you can’t find at least four lies he told in the three verses where he was speaking. The purpose of his lies was simply to delude the child of God into discrediting the character of God. The only way to do that is to lie. Any time you tell the truth about God you glorify God. Satan is a liar from the beginning Scripture says. He is also a murderer. He is the father of it. That means that every variation from the truth, however slight, comes from him. Every lie that has ever been told originated with him. He goes to and fro throughout the whole earth seeking whom he may devour. His methods, or his “wiles”, as Paul put it, are all locked up in one principle. *He wants to sell a lie in order to discredit the truth.* Any lie will do, small or big. A little white lie is as good as a big whopper to him, because once you depart from the truth, you depart from the will of God. The consequences, eternally, are the same.

So there is someone who has never told the truth. His name is Satan. His objective is to make you lie. He wants you to either believe a lie or tell a lie or live a lie.

There is also someone who has never told a lie. His name is Jesus Christ. He said in John

...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth...

(John 18:37)

Of His Spirit He said,

Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, [that is His name] is come, he will guide you into all truth: [that is His occupation]...

(John 16:13)

I John adds,

And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth [that is His character].

(I John 5:6b)

There, then, you have two of the three principal characters of

The Truth Will Set You Free

this lesson. On the one hand, you have Satan, the father of lies who has never and will never tell the truth. On the other hand, there is Jesus, who has never and will never tell a lie. The third party in the conflict is us. You and me. We are the battlefield. At stake is the reputation of God and the message of the Kingdom. The arena of the conflict will be centered around the issue of truth.

Now why are we looking at the question of truth in this lesson? Answer: Because we are looking at the Living Legend of Moses. We are looking with Moses at God's ten principles of living. We know them better as the Ten Commandments. We have come to the last six commandments. These are the six pillars that hold up the building of life. The first three, the pillar of respect, the pillar of life and the pillar of holiness are the reflections of God's character in the Christian as it relates to authority, life and purity.

In the last lesson, we looked at the fourth pillar, the pillar of honesty. This is one of the two pillars that deals with integrity. We learned that it doesn't really matter what standards of honesty the world has. God's answer to us is: We are different because we are Christians and it is an issue of integrity. God's standards of integrity for us leave no room for compromise.

The other half of our look at integrity in this lesson takes us to the ninth commandment. It is the fifth of the six pillars of life. It says simply this in Exodus,

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

(Exodus 20:16)

The Christian is to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, always. Once again, it is an issue of integrity. Let's begin by defining the word itself. What is a false witness? *A false witness is anyone who bears witness, either through conversation or testimony, to a word about another that is less than or different than the total known truth.* You can be a false witness in a court of law, in a personal dispute, or in idle conversation. You are a false witness if you repeat one idle word of gossip that is either untrue or unnecessary to the conversation.

You are a false witness if you, by word or deed, undermine the character or integrity of another to another other than the one in question. You are a false witness anytime your words or facial expressions indicate an unhealthy attitude towards another

The Truth Will Set You Free

while you are pretending to be to that person anything different. Anything you say or do that consciously or unconsciously could be used against another makes you a witness against them. If it is unnecessary or at all less than true, you are a false witness. It is an issue of integrity. The Bible has a lot to say about bearing false witness. Let's take a look at some of those principles:

Principle 1- God hates lying. God hates it when we bear false witness or bend the truth in any way affecting another. Proverbs 6:16 tells us that there are six things that are an abomination to the Lord and seven things that God hates. In verse 19 the list includes "a false witness that speaks lies."

Principle 2- A false witness is deserving of whatever penalty the wronged defendant would suffer. Deuteronomy says this:

If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong;

Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those day;

The judges shall make a diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother;

Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put evil away from among you.
(Deuteronomy 19:16-19)

In other words, if a man lies under oath about another, he is deserving of the guilty man's punishment. By doing this, verse 19 tells us, it will put an end to this problem. You might consider that principle when children are found lying about each other.

Principle 3- If a man will bear false witness to protect either himself or another, he will lie about other things as well.

A true witness never lies, A false witness always lies.

(Proverbs 14:5 TLB)

Principle 4- A false witness must be punished.

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

(Proverbs 19:5)

A false witness shall be punished, and a liar shall be caught.

(Proverbs 19:9 TLB)

Is it wrong then to put a trap to catch your children when you suspect they are lying? I don't think so. They must be punished.

The Truth Will Set You Free

They must be caught. A false witness must be punished. An honest witness is safe.

Principle 5- Satan uses false witnesses to discredit God's leaders.

Now the chief priests, and elders and all the counsel, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;

But found none: yea though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witnesses against thee?

Jesus held His peace. (Matthew 26:59-62a)

Acts says,

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him [Stephen] to the counsel,

And set up false witnesses which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: (Acts 6:8,10,12,13)

If a man of God is being used of God, one thing the father of lies will always try to do is to cause false witnesses to come forth and discredit either the work or the man, and thus discredit the character of God. We have seen it again and again in Christian circles. Vindication, however, may not come on this earth. God may rather plan to use that humiliation or those circumstances to bring glory to His name another way. Jesus was crucified. Stephen was stoned to death. Both suffered these things because of the testimony of false witnesses. But the end result in both cases was the will of God for the glory of God.

Many of the Psalms reflect David's crying to God over his enemies who lied about him and appeared to go unpunished. Through his cries of anguish came a man who came to know the very heart of God.

Job was wrongfully accused by his "friends". These accusations

The Truth Will Set You Free

brought to the surface an attitude of self-righteousness and self-pity. But also these accusations brought Job to the end of himself and thus to a deeper revelation of God.

God often allows false witnesses to say things about you that are totally untrue. He may appear to be silent in the heavens even as David claimed Him to be. But, ah, my friends, He is in the business of manufacturing pure gold. Often times the Refiner's fire burns with the heat of unfair accusations and untrue but unanswered claims. The false witness will be punished, the Scriptures say that. But the innocent may not see his name vindicated in this life.

Principle #6- What then, should our response be to a false witness? God's response in us is always the same: love.

False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.

They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul.

But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; my prayer returned into my own bosom.

I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother. (Psalm 35:11-14)

Jesus put the touch of grace on the principle in Matthew 5 as He carried it one step beyond,

Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (Matthew 5:11,12)

Jesus prayed, "Father forgive them." Stephen prayed, "Lay not this sin to their charge." The believer, when wrongfully accused by a false witness, has a two-fold responsibility. The first is to rejoice and be glad. The literal meaning of that phrase was *leap for joy*. Secondly, to pray for those who defile your reputation and cause you harm, even impending death. You may ask why. For great is your reward in heaven. This is why. Heaven is where all the rewards are that last.

Principle 7- The best answer for a false witness is a blameless life.

The Truth Will Set You Free

And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled [worried];

But sanctify [set apart] the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear,

Having a clear conscience when they speak evil of you as though you are an evildoer, that they may be ashamed who falsely accuse your good behaviour in Christ.

(I Peter 3:13-16)

Just keep on walking with God. Pray for your accusers and rejoice in your persecution. Your defense is up to God.

So the Scripture speaks out on the dangers of slandering your neighbor through false witness. That, of course, is not all that this commandment is talking about. The deeper problem is one of esteeming God's whole concept of truth. Nearly every passage on bearing false witness is set in the larger context of lying lips. What God is speaking of, then, is the greater issue of telling the truth in every situation. This brings us back to our initial premise. Satan is the father of lies and cannot tell the truth. Jesus is perfect truth; He cannot tell a lie. You and I are the battlefield on which the conflict occurs. Every time we bend the truth or hide the truth or withhold the truth or deny the truth, we blaspheme the Word of truth and set aflame the priceless reputation of God. That is why, to the Christian, any lie is an abomination to the Lord.

You ask, "What is a lie?" A lie is any deviation from or variation of the truth. What is God's truth about lying? We will quickly go through what God has to say about lying.

Truth 1- He hates lying.

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight. (Proverbs 12:22)

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea seven are an abomination unto him:

A proud look, a lying tongue, ... (Proverbs 6:16,17a)

Because every lie told damages the reputation of God, God hates every lie that is told.

The Truth Will Set You Free

Truth 2- The basis of all lies is that man is his own god and therefore he deifies his own truth. In Romans 1:24-25 Paul speaks of fools who turn their backs on God and turn themselves over to uncleanness and change the truth of God into a lie. They worship the creature more than the Creator. These men had defied the natural portrait of holiness and turned the truth of God into a lie. Here was the lie: that the creature was his own god. His own appetites were all that mattered. Everyone did that which was right in his own eyes just as Satan in the garden urged Eve to open her eyes and be a god in order to serve herself rather than God. Satan's basic lie is still the same. All other lies have their root right there. If God is not absolute as God, then truth is not absolute, so whatever is right for you is right. What a lie that is.

Truth 3- Lying about someone or to someone is like murdering them or destroying their character. This is a good verse to memorize.

Telling lies about someone is as harmful as hitting them with an ax, or wounding him with a sword, or shooting him with a sharp arrow. (Proverbs 25:18 TLB)

Truth 4- Those who lie eventually pay a price.

Deliver me, O LORD, from liars.

O lying tongue, what shall be your fate?

You shall be pierced with sharp arrows and burned with glowing coals. (Psalm 120:2-4)

The lip of truth shall be established forever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment. (Proverbs 12:19)

Truth 5- Lies are particularly unbecoming to a leader.

Truth from a rebel or lies from a king are both unexpected. (Proverbs 17:7 TLB)

That is why, even in modern society, when a national leader is caught in a lie, he ought to end up in disgrace. That no longer happens, because man no longer believes in absolutes.

Truth 6- Using lies to get rich is like a boomerang; it is useless because the riches will tarnish and fade.

The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek after death. (Proverbs 21:6)

Truth 7- The Christian is to lay aside every form of lying.

The Truth Will Set You Free

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

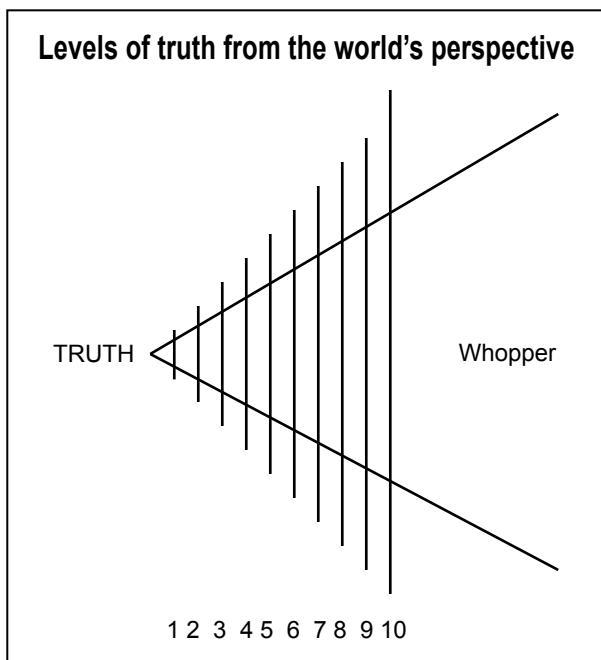
Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.

(Ephesians 4:24,25)

Never ever lie to another Christian or tell a lie about another Christian. Paul says that we are all a part of the same body. If the eye lies about the hand, the whole body suffers, even the eye who lied. No one tells lies about himself to hurt himself. No one in his right mind at least. Likewise, no one ought to lie about his brother who is in Christ because they are a part of the same body.

So there is the truth about lying. God hates it. You ought to hate it. I ought to hate it. The problem is that as with the other absolutes we have been studying, God's man and God's woman have been affected by the confusing, changing standards of the world. To God, truth is absolute. To depart from the truth is a lie. So it is either true or it is not. But to the world, there are varying degrees of truth. Whether or not something is a lie is relative.

This chart gives you a little illustration.



The Truth Will Set You Free

It shows a scale of 1 to 10 of total truth to total lie from the world's perspective. There are ten varying degrees of acceptability. If you don't believe it, watch television programs and read the newspaper to see the undercurrent of acceptability. To lie to protect your own interests if no one else is going to be hurt is maybe a "two" to the world. Everybody does it. Why not? To lie on your income tax is a three. Nearly everybody does it. To lie about your age is a three. After all, who gets hurt? To lie about your product is a two. How else are you going to sell it? To lie on an exam is a floating five. It is acceptable to most, if you don't get caught. To forge a check is an eight. It is almost never acceptable unless you are poverty stricken and taking it from a millionaire; then it becomes about a four. After all, nothing is absolute, right?

It is all relative to the world because the father of lies has set up a program to make men gods. I submit to you that Satan has superimposed at least five subtle forms of avoiding the truth onto man. We Christians have bought his package like everyone else. Here are five ways man avoids the truth.

1- We avoid the truth by avoiding giving an answer.

2- We avoid the truth by asking a question.

3- We avoid the truth with a relative response, one with no absolute possibilities.

4- We avoid the truth with meaningless exaggerations.

5- We avoid the truth with vagueness. No one knows what we are driving at.

Here are some illustrations, and I want you to test your responses even among each other in the week to come. See if God would not have you simply, as God says, to let your "yes" be a "yes" and your "no" be a "no".

First, we try to avoid the truth by *not giving an answer*. "Is that book red?" "The book isn't blue." Then we try to answer *a question with a question*. "Is that Freddie's bicycle?" "Isn't that a neat bicycle?" Then we try to answer with a *relative response*. "Is that a clean movie?" "I've seen worse." Then we try to answer by *exaggeration*. "Is that a good product?" "The best ever made." Or we try to answer by *vagueness*. "Did you see my purse?" "I don't think so."

Now each one of those has a potential "yes" or "no" answer.

The Truth Will Set You Free

Let me give you a better illustration.

Question: “Did you stay on your diet today?”

- a) Avoidance answer: “Boy, that is some diet.”
- b) Relative response: “More or less.”
- c) Exaggeration: “I bet I lost 10 pounds today.”
- d) Vagueness: “I always try.”

The question was, “Did you stay on your diet today?” Yes or no needs to be the answer. The key is that by telling the truth you would either be blessed through conviction or contentment, but a lie produces guilt and instability.

Here is another one.

Question: “Have you finished the project I gave you to do?”

- a) Avoidance response: “That is the hardest project I have ever had.”
- b) Relative response: “I’ve really been working on it”.
- c) Exaggerated response: “Are you kidding? I finished it in ten minutes”.
- d) Vague response: “I like projects like that one”.

What was the question? “Did you finish the project?” Yes or no needs to be your answer. Just tell the truth. It will set you free.

Here is a dangerous one, men.

Question: “Dear, did you like the casserole tonight?”

Avoidance: “Boy are those peas good”.

- a) Question response: “Have you ever made that before?”
- b) Relative response: “It is much better than the chicken we had last night.”
- c) Exaggeration response: “It is better than any T-bone I have ever had.”
- d) Vague response: “It really has an unusual flavor.”

Now the question was: Do you like the casserole? Yes or no needs to be your answer. Let your yes be a yes and your no be a no. Scripture says that it is an honor to receive a frank reply. If your wife is offended by an honest answer, chances are she won’t ask again. Either way, tell the truth.

The Truth Will Set You Free

Let's see if we can relate this to spiritual things. There is present within the world today and within organized religion in particular, those who question God's absolutes but still claim to be Christianized. Here is the key—Ask them a question about the truth and listen to the answers you get.

Question: “Is Jesus God?” Now that is a simple question.

- a) Avoid the truth by avoiding the question: “Isn't Jesus the expression of God?”
- b) Avoid the truth by asking another question: “Isn't love what it is all about?”
- c) Avoid the truth by a relative response: “Dear brother, Jesus is in all of us.”
- d) Avoid the truth with vague response: “Who would ask such a question?”
- e) Avoid the truth with an exaggerated response: “Jesus is everything to me.”

That is not the question. The question was, “Is Jesus God”? You have a hard time getting an answer to this question even from seminary professors. Is Jesus God? Satan will build a smoke screen of lies with partial truths and relative answers. *Yes, Jesus is God; therefore all the other responses were lies because they avoid the full revelation of the truth.*

The liberal philosophy today is to avoid absolutes. Ask anyone who denies God's absolutes this question: Was Jesus born of a virgin? You will get some amazing answers. Ask this question: Is Jesus coming again? You will get some amazing answers. But the question is yes or no. Yes, Jesus was born of a virgin; it is true. Yes, Jesus is coming again; that is truth. See if Satan doesn't try to answer you with one of these five responses. Is there a hell? They will tell you not to take the Bible so literally. Ask them if there is a heaven and they will answer that they think so. My friend, there can't be a heaven if there is not a hell because the same God who is truth in His same word, the word of truth, wrote more about hell than He did about heaven. It is *the* truth. Any question mark you add alongside His Word defies the authority of His Word. His Word is always true because His nature is truth. You can, therefore, rest the weight of your life on everything He says. He cannot lie. It is impossible for Him to lie. It is impossible for God in you to lie. It is impossible for Satan to tell the truth.

The Truth Will Set You Free

Hence the conflict. Every time you have a decision to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, it is a spiritual choice. The choice is whether or not to let the Holy Spirit run your life. It is only by telling the truth that you reveal the truth and lead men to the truth through Jesus Christ.

The Bible has a lot to say about truth, too. We don't have time to give all of it, but I will list the principles and you can look up the references. This is God's truth about the truth:

Truth 1- Jesus Christ is the essence of truth.

The Word, [who is the truth] was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

(John 1:14)

I am *the* Way, *the* Truth and *the* Life. No man comes to the Father but by Me.

(John 14:6)

Truth 2- Jesus came to reveal all truth.

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

(John 1:17)

Truth 3- Jesus, the truth, sets men free. (John 8:32 and 36)

Truth 4- There is no truth in Satan. (John 8:44)

Truth 5- The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. (John 16:13 and I John 5:6)

Truth 6- Satan's lie is to make the truth relative.

Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? (John 18:38)

In other words he was saying that there are no absolutes. Crucify Him if you want.

Truth 7- Telling the truth is an evidence of spiritual growth.

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (Ephesians 4:15)

Truth 8- The truth is part of our armor. (Ephesians 6:14)

Truth 9- The truth ultimately is the issue of our life.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not tell the truth: (I John 1:6)

Truth 10- God's word is the truth.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (II Timothy 2:15)

The Truth Will Set You Free

Truth 11- Christian leaders must be men of truth. Moses chose out men of truth. (Exodus 18:21)

LORD, who shall dwell [abide] in thy tabernacle [His presence]? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. (Psalm 15:1,2)

That is the truth about the truth. The truth is that it will set you free. Here are two of the best known passages in the New Testament.

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31,32)

If the Son therefore shall set you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John 8:36)

Jesus is the personification of all truth. The degree to which we honor the truth is the degree to which God will set us free. If we live a lie, then we will be in bondage to the lie we live. If we speak lies, we will be in bondage to the guilt, confusion and fear resulting from it. If we believe a lie, we will lose our grip on the truth and soon be in bondage to the lie we believe. But the truth sets us free. It sets us free at least six ways.

1- Every time we tell the truth we honor God who is perfect truth. Thus, the truth sets us free.

2- Every time we tell the truth, we humiliate Satan. He is the father of lies and lives only to deceive God's elect into either living or telling a lie. We humiliate Satan, and that sets us free.

3- Every time we tell the truth, we are freed from the guilt of our sin and the fear of being found out, and that is freedom indeed. The truth sets us free.

4- Every time we tell the truth, we eliminate the snowball principle. The snowball principle is that we have to tell a lie to cover up another lie. So we can keep on telling the truth. The truth sets us free.

5- Every time we tell the truth, it establishes God's character as absolute. It trains our life from God's perspective, until our natural responses are God's responses and it never enters our mind to tell anything other than the truth. The truth sets us free.

The Truth Will Set You Free

6- Every time we tell the truth, we bear testimony to a world that has no absolutes that we belong to a God who does. We open the door for a testimony to life eternal. We are free to witness to the truth because the truth sets us free.

It is an issue of integrity and spiritual conflict every time we have a slight test of the truth. When the phone rings tomorrow and you are tempted to ask, “Honey, are you here? It is Johnny. No, he is not in right now.” Consider it a spiritual struggle between Satan and God. Satan tells you that your answer is an acceptable lie. You are tired and the guy on the phone is a pest. God tells you yes or no needs to be your answer. If you are not there, who is your wife talking to? Just tell the truth. It will set you free.

You may be at work, and the boss asks you if you finished the assignment he gave you. All five of Satan’s deceptions will flood your mind. But if it isn’t finished, say this, “Sir, I’m sorry, it isn’t finished.” The truth will set you free.

When that customer asks you tomorrow about your product and a slight exaggeration will give you a competitive edge, don’t do it. Tell the truth and leave the sale up to God. The truth will set you free.

When your husband calls and asks if you paid the utility bill and you see it still on your desk, don’t double-talk to avoid the question and then go out and mail it. Just tell him the truth, “No, I did not.” It will set you free.

If someone asks you to do something or go somewhere you would have before you were a Christian, don’t say, “I’d love to but I’m tired today, maybe some other time.” Tell them the truth, “I can’t go with you because I’ve become a Christian.” The truth will set you free. It just might set them free as well.

The truth about the truth is this: Jesus Christ is perfect truth. Any deviation from perfect truth is ceasing to abide in Him. But if you abide in His word you really are His disciples and you will know and have intimate firsthand knowledge of the truth. That intimate, firsthand knowledge of the truth will set you free. It is a real spiritual battle. It is a battle between the father of lies and the Lord of truth. You and I are the battlefield. But the victory is already ours in Christ. All we have to do is tell the truth.

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

Oh, the conflict, oh, the battle;
The sword doth Satan wield.
Is not truth the source of conflict?
Are not we the battlefield?

Does not he deny with fervor
Such a thing as truth exists?
Does not he avoid the issue
Every time the truth persists?

Must not we but face the issue
Seeing thus how hard he tries?
Must not we reject his premise
Is not he the prince of lies?

“Only let your eyes be opened
You shall be as God,” says he.
“What is truth,” he asks,
Then answers, “Only what you make it be.”

Ah, my friend, God is no liar.
Is His every word not true?
Does He not cry out through Scripture,
“Perfect truth I’ve given you.”

“Every time you lie,” He answers,
“You defy the truth of God.
Every time you even bend it,
You camp out on Satan’s sod.”

What is truth? The question echoes.
“I Am Truth,” is God’s reply.
“You destroy My reputation
Every time you tell a lie.”

Oh, the conflict, oh, the battle
Satan’s lies doth bring us woe.
When you tell the truth, beloved,
Satan’s a defeated foe.

“Tell the truth,” God asks His children.
Tell the truth and soon you’ll see;
In the very act of telling,
God will set His children free.

The Truth Will Set You Free

For Focus and Application

1- Read John 8:44 and explain what you think John was saying about Satan. What does the “father of lies” mean? Read John 18:37. How does this conflict develop in the lives of God’s children?

2- Review the principles on pages 6-8. Choose at least one of the Scriptures listed to memorize this week. Ask God to clothe your heart in a mantle of truth; to give you a desire to be *totally honest in all that you do, and totally truthful in all that you say.*

3- Review the seven truths about lying found on pages 9-11. Put them in the context of your own life and the world in which you live.

4- What big lie has Satan sold the world that has made lying an acceptable alternative? (see page 11) How have we “justified” “half-truths” though there really is no such thing?

5- Look again at the five ways we avoid telling the truth. (page 12) Review the illustrations given on pages 12-14. Make a list of these five traps we fall into and ask yourself at the end of each day if you have compromised in any of those five areas.

6- Memorize the six ways the truth sets us free (found on pages 16 and 17). Ask God to confirm those principles in your life. Expect Him to do that. He may do that by allowing you to reap what you have sown. He may allow you to see in other people the fruit of lying. Each time He does, thank Him for making it personal, for turning knowledge into understanding.

7- Ask God to give you a fresh kind of discernment where truth is concerned. Ask Him to make you more sensitive to when you “bend” the truth. When He does, honestly deal with the motive that caused you to lie. Call that compromise what it is: a lie, and ask for forgiveness for *that particular infraction*, not just for being a liar. Each time you are tempted to compromise, stop, meditate on Ephesians 4:15, and ask God to give you the power to be honest.

dtm DISCIPLESHIP TAPE MINISTRIES, INC.

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230
210-226-0000 or 1-800-375-7778
www.dtm.org • dtm@dtm.org • © Russell Kelfer

(03.07.15)