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# **Speaking the Truth in Love**

**# 921-A**

**Series: Living Lessons From Proverbs**



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# Speaking the Truth in Love

The scene goes something like this:

Cathy Christian and Beverly Believer are having lunch when out of the clear blue sky, Bev turns to Cathy and asks, “What did you think of that book I gave you last week? You have read it, haven’t you?”

Now Cathy has several choices: She can (a) be totally honest and admit to Beverly that the book hasn’t entered her mind; (b) she can be a blatant liar and say to Bev, “I loved the book; it was one of the best I’ve ever read,” (and hope she isn’t asked to comment on the contents); or (c) she can “tell a half-truth” (as if there were such a thing) and respond, “Oh, I’m not finished yet, I’ve still got a long way to go, but it’s a lovely book.”

“That’s almost true,” she could justify. She DOES still have a long way to go...and it IS true that she’s not finished yet, (primarily because she hasn’t started). Now what would you do? What DO you do?

You don’t want to hurt a friend’s feelings and lead her to believe you’re not interested in her literary pursuits, you reason. It’s not REALLY a lie, you say, you DO plan to read it someday-or it’s only a LITTLE lie, if it’s a lie at all. Nobody will get hurt. It’s such an inconsequential thing, anyway, isn’t it, compared to all the really big lies people tell?

I believe our study will reveal that in God’s sight, it really IS a BIG thing...because there is no such thing as a “half-truth” to God, and because for the Christian, anything short of the “whole truth” is a major violation of the character of God. Here’s another example:

Sammy Spiritual comes home from a hard day at the office. His wife, Suzie Spiritual, has asked him to order some tickets for a Christian concert that was coming to town next month. He enters the door, and before he has a chance to set his briefcase down or take off his coat, Suzie greets him. “Hi, dear, did you

order the tickets?”

Now there's no way for Suzie to know whether or not Sammy has ordered the tickets. Sam forgot, but he really wants to appear to be Freddy Faithful to his loving spouse...and his intentions are good. He plans to order them first thing tomorrow. He has several choices. "I'm sorry dear, I forgot." would be one. "They will be here in no time," is another lie. (That's almost true.)

"You bet I did, hon," is still another. (That's an outright lie—even Sammy knows that.)

The phone rings; it's the man from the bank. "About your payment for this month," he begins, "I was wondering if you had forgotten." (You haven't forgotten, but you don't have the money.) You face the same three choices:

- a) No, sir, I'm sorry. I haven't sent it yet.
- b) Haven't you received that check? Seems the mail gets slower every day.
- c) It's on it's way. Glad you called, though.

You either tell the truth, or you tell an overt lie, or you tell a justified lie. A justified lie is one that you can justify based on one of three things:

- a) no one gets hurt,
- b) no one will ever know,
- c) it's in everyone's best interests.

Husbands justify lying to their spouses; wives justify lying to their children; just about everybody justifies lying to the IRS. The truth is: In God's eyes, a just-if-ied lie is just as-if-ied lied.

Just how important is it for Christians to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? That's the issue of the day, as we wind towards the closing section of our study of the sins of the tongue.

You may remember we looked first at the sins of the tongue that are the fruits of a hostile spirit: an arguing tongue, a tongue that gives a bad report, and a murmuring tongue. We learned what Paul meant when he said, "whatsoever things are of a good report, if there be any praise, think on, and talk about these things."

We looked next at the fruits of a proud or insensitive spirit

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(boasting and judging) and were reminded that “whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are kind, we are to think on those things.”

Now we begin our look at the sins of the tongue that are the fruits of a destructive or deceitful spirit, and we shall be reminded that whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, if there be any virtue, we are to think on those things. And as you can readily see, the first stop on that journey will be at the Village of Truth where we shall examine, primarily from Proverbs, just what truth is and just how God feels about lying.

The problem is quite simple. The problem is we live in a world that defies absolutes. We live in a world that answers Pilate’s penetrating question, “What is truth?” with “Truth is what YOU believe it to be.” (And sadly enough they BELIEVE their definition.) We live in THAT kind of world—a world that desires, as Paul says, to squeeze us into its mold.

As we have already illustrated, there are at least three kinds of “acceptable lies” in our society.

- a) It’s acceptable to lie if no one gets hurt.
- b) It’s acceptable to lie if no one gets caught.
- c) It’s acceptable to lie if it’s “in everyone’s best interests.”
- d) It’s acceptable to lie if it’s to protect oneself from a larger entity.

For example, it’s acceptable to lie to the government, to big corporations, or to insurance companies. Man’s twisted reasoning is that “no one will be hurt” because “they” represent some kind of impersonal force that is out to get us, we just get them first. So a normally upstanding moral Christian will lie on his income tax form or lie about the date of the warranty on some product he bought or lie about a claim from an accident he had... no big lies you understand... just slight exaggerations. After all, who’ll get hurt? Who will know? And besides (here’s the capper!) everybody does it! Well, what is a lie? The dictionary defines a lie this way:

a lie: a false statement; anything meant to deceive or give a wrong impression.

So, using the dictionary’s definition alone, two of our three choices in the opening illustrations were lies. (Not one, two.)

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Anything meant to deceive, regardless of your motivation for deceiving, IS A LIE.

I'm going to give you a Scriptural definition of lying, too. We'll explain it in detail later on in the lesson.

to lie: to deny the character of Jesus Christ by compromising that which is absolute; to deny the character of Jesus Christ by compromising that which is absolute.

The dictionary definition describes the act of lying. The scriptural definition defines the sin of lying. Both are necessary for this study.

That's the problem. We live in a world, even a Christian world, of acceptable lying...justified lying...and yet we belong to a God of absolute truth. How do we reconcile the two? Or do we? And what's more important: the person or the truth? If telling the truth will hurt someone, should I tell the truth? What if telling the truth will tarnish my image and, thus, tarnish someone's image of the God I serve? Where is the line drawn?

From God's perspective, just what is truth? It's an age-old question, but one with crystal clear answers, when those answers come only from God's crystal-clear WORD. In order to address the problem, then, we must look at the principles...God's measuring sticks from Scripture that are given to the Christian so that he can evaluate the world's decisions from God's perspective. That's what principles are.

In this lesson, we will examine what the Scripture says about lying, and we will do so with the specific intent of drawing conclusions that formulate principles, which will give us clear insights into the kinds of choices we have to make on a day-to-day basis. Our basic textbook for this study is the book of Proverbs, so we will begin by looking at everything we can find that Proverbs says about lying and about the truth. Here are the principles from Proverbs where lying is concerned:

Principle 1- *God hates lies and He is repulsed by lying lips.*

There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him;

[He hates] haughty eyes, [He hates] a lying tongue, [He hates] hands that shed innocent blood,

[He hates] a heart that devises wicked schemes, [He hates] feet that are quick to rush into evil,

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[He hates] a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

(Proverbs 6:16-19 NIV)

God is saying there are some things He simply cannot stand:

He cannot stand arrogance.

He cannot stand injustice.

He cannot stand a conniving mind.

He cannot stand a divisive spirit.

He cannot stand lying.

He lists basically seven things that make Him sick, and two of them are sins of a lying tongue.

So principle 1 that God hates lies and that He is repulsed by lying lips ought to be clear; and it ought to clearly affect the rest of this study.

The reasons He feels so strongly about it will surface in more detail later, but suffice it to say, God does not take lying lightly... not in any form. He hates those lies that simply bend the truth to fit our best interests.

He also hates a false witness—one whose lies affect the character or fate of another, be it on the witness stand in court or on the witness stand of the Courts of Heaven. The principles are the same. We already have the mind of God where lying is concerned: He hates it. Now stop and think what that means before we go on. It means if we are to honor and please God, all forms of lying and exaggeration must stop.

Principle 2- *Man's true character is revealed by the truthfulness of his conversation.*

A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies.

(Proverbs 12:17 NIV)

Ken Taylor paraphrases it this way: (It really gets to the heart of it.)

A good man is known by his truthfulness, a false man by deceit and lies.

A godly man with a godly spirit will tell the truth. (We'll see why as we go along.) An ungodly man, or a man who pretends to be godly but harbors an impure or deceitful spirit, will in varying degrees bend the truth; and his bending of the truth will in fact be God's way of disclosing just how much THE TRUTH controls

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his life. In other words, the more God controls your life, the less you are prone to lie in any form or even exaggerate the truth. The more the Spirit controls you, the more Truth controls you, for as we shall see, the Spirit IS truth.

### Principle 3- Time confirms truth; time exposes lies.

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. (Proverbs 12:19 NIV)

The Living Bible says this:

Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed.

God is saying to the Christian tell the truth, no matter what the immediate consequences seem to be, no matter what others may think of you; and given the precious ingredient of time, God will honor your integrity. In the long run, men will bless you and trust you and respect you. Those who seem to get life's "instant advantage" by lying will eventually be exposed for who they really are. God honors the Truth, and He honors those who tell the Truth, even if the immediate consequences mean immediate loss.

Principle 4- The righteous hate what is false, but the wicked bring shame and disgrace. The principle is found in these verses:

Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner. (Proverbs 13:6 NIV)

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free.

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will perish. (Proverbs 19:5,9 NIV)

Liars will suffer the consequences, eventually. Your sins will find you out. The net Satan spreads for the Christian is the net of postponed reckoning. He lets you lie and nothing happens; in fact, it seems to be in everybody's best interest. You make that sale just by bending the truth a little. You make your wife happy by telling her what she wants to hear. You make your boss happy by pretending to be something you're not. You avoid that pesky salesman by pretending not to be home.

It appears no one is the loser. You look better, they seem happy, and there SEEM to be no consequences. So having made the law of sowing and reaping seem somewhat distant, Satan has set you up for the kill. He has communicated to you that if it worked once, it'll work again. He's saying to you what he said to Eve. Thou shalt not lie? HATH GOD SAID THAT?

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My friend, we can put this one in concrete. The man who lies will eventually be found out and will suffer the consequences. God's law of Truth does not bend. If it were not so, then our salvation would not be secure. We are secure in Christ because He IS absolute Truth, and He will never change, nor will His plan of redemption. Write it down, Beloved. You may lie and get by for a while-Satan does that-but lies will lead to punishment. God does that.

### Principle 5- You can tell a man by the company he keeps.

A wicked man listens to evil lips; a liar pays attention to a malicious tongue. (Proverbs 17:4)

Ken Taylor sums it up; listen:

The wicked enjoy fellowship with others who are wicked; liars enjoy liars.

So the incredible truth of "like attracting like" surfaces once again. You can tell a man by the friends he keeps. If he is drawn to men who lie, he, in his spirit, accepts the philosophy of lying lips. If your children are drawn to friendships with those who lie, do not be surprised when they themselves begin to bend the truth.

Friendships are the mirrors that reflect a man's inner character; and liars enjoy liars. And why not? They simply add credibility to their compromise by surrounding themselves with those who view truth the same way they do.

### Principle 6- The man caught lying who passes it off as a joke is a dangerous person to have around.

Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows is a man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I was only joking". (Proverbs 26:18,19 NIV)

A man who is caught lying to his neighbor, and says, "I was just fooling" is like a madman throwing around firebrands, arrows, and death. (Proverbs 26:18,19 TLB)

### Principle 7- There's only one thing worse than a liar, and that's a liar who shrugs it off when he's caught.

Watch for that in your kids! The man or woman who has made lying a way of life will do that. He or she has convinced themselves that they don't really mean it, and so when the axe of reality begins to fall, they put on the clown's suit and make you the audience.



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“Surely, you never really thought I meant that,” they whine, “you should have known I was only kidding.” So instead of their lying being the issue, your inability to discern a joke becomes the issue. Watch for it! It is a tool of Satan and he uses it at every turn.

Principle 8- *A life of truth is one of life’s most priceless treasures.*

Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die;

Keep falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

(Proverbs 30:7,8 NIV)

The Psalmist is saying, if I were to only have two great wishes in life, they would be this:

1- Keep me from ever telling a lie.

2- Meet my needs, but don’t make me rich.

He goes on to explain if he were too poor, he might steal and dishonor God, or if he were too rich, he might become self-sufficient and ask Himself, “Who needs God?”

The Living Bible says it this way:

O, God, I beg two favors from you before I die.

First help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches. Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.

The principle is this: *A Life of Truth is one of life’s most priceless treasures.* You may not achieve great success as a businessman. You may not receive great acclaim as a musician or writer or preacher. Your name may not be recorded in Who’s Who, or even in What’s that? But if you can reach the end of your journey and men will say of you, “There was a man or there was a woman who ALWAYS TOLD THE TRUTH-their Word was always dependable”...If you can reach the end of life’s journey and leave that kind of message engraved on your life, the Psalmist is saying, your life has been a distinct success.

Principle 9- *Liars enjoy lying.*

A corrupt witness mocks at justice, and the mouth of the wicked gulps down evil. (Proverbs 19:28 NIV)

A worthless witness cares nothing for truth-he enjoys sinning too much. (Proverbs 19:28 TLB)

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The principle is simple. *Not only do liars enjoy liars, but LIARS ENJOY LYING. SATAN SEES TO THAT!* Satan sees that sin is fun; that's part of his task as a deceiver. To the one who perpetually bends the truth, Satan gives the subtle satisfaction that you have successfully deceived others.

That's Satan's objective. He is a deceiver by trade and lying, as we shall see momentarily, is his trademark. So at least for a season, he makes it enjoyable. That's why lying, like so many other contagious spiritual diseases, cultivates a taste for itself, and brings momentary satisfaction to one who is living outside the will of GOD.

For the sake of time, we'll only add two additional principles from the rest of Scripture.

Principle 10- *Lying is foreign to the new nature. It is therefore to cease when Jesus comes into your life.* It says this:

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices, and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its creator.  
(Colossians 3:9 NIV)

Don't tell lies to each other, it was your old life with all its wickedness that did that sort of thing; now it is dead and gone.  
(Colossians 3:9 TLB)

You are living a brand new kind of life that is continually learning more and more of what is right and trying constantly to be more and more like Christ, who created this new life within you."

The principle is very simply this: *Lying is foreign to the new nature. It is therefore to cease when Jesus comes into your life.*

The absence of lying and the presence of truth are seals of the new nature. If you are to demonstrate HIS likeness, you are simply to stop lying. God gives the power; you make the choice, but you really have no choice, if you are going to demonstrate Wisdom. If the mind of Christ is to control your tongue, you cannot, you will not, lie.

Principle 11- *When you lie to men, you lie to God!*

While it's simple, it's basic. The story is familiar.

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.

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With his wife's full knowledge, he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostle's feet.

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? YOU HAVE NOT LIED TO MEN, BUT TO GOD."  
(Acts 5:1-4 NIV)

Do you remember what happened. Ananias fell down and died; and three hours later his wife met with the same fate? Several principles emerge from this passage, but we'll just major on the one! It's found at the end of verse four. The principle is this: *When you lie to men, you lie to God!*

There is no record that Ananias had made a formal statement to God about his property. He was simply giving a false impression. He was (as our earlier definition stated) meaning to deceive. The thrust of his lie was to the leadership of the church, but God took it personally. He always does. There are other interesting facts in this passage that we must just mention in passing that affect our understanding of lying. One is found in verse 3:

How is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied?

That's where the desire comes from (more about that in a moment). The second fact is that the problem was not one of stewardship. The land was his to do with as he chose. The money after he sold the land was his to do with as he chose. The issue was deceit. He led them to believe one thing; he did another. He lived a lie and thus defied the character of God.

So if we are to do a paragraph summary of what Proverbs and the rest of Scripture says about lying, we'd have to at least consider the facts.

Lying is an abomination to God. It is one of the things he hates the most. He knows, and so should we, that when a person lies, he is revealing a great deal about his character. Liars should be aware that the truth endures, but lies eventually are found out, and liars eventually come to shame.

It is a known fact that those who lie seek company with those

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who lie. Another known fact is that one of the deadliest people in the world is the man who, when caught lying, justifies his lying by pretending it to be a joke.

We also learned that while the Truth is one of life's most precious commodities, lying is still enjoyable to liars. Satan sees to that.

But lying is to stop when you ask Jesus into your life. The new nature has no place for anything but the Truth. This truth is further underscored when we realize that when we lie to man, we are in essence lying to God.

So the principles are clear, and so is the message. As Christians, lying is no option, at any time, in any place, for any reason. Paul's message and Proverbs' message are one. STOP IT! So, we've looked at the problem, and we've looked at the principles. Now for a moment, let's look at the portrait.

As with all spiritual truth, God is saying more to us than, "Do this and don't do that." GOD is saying, "I have a reason for doing and not doing this or that, and if you come to understand the reason, you'll come to a mature understanding of My will."

What God is saying when He says, "Thou shalt not lie," is, "My child, come to understand the TRUTH, and you would rather die than lie!"

God is saying to you and to me, look at the Truths in Scripture about the Truth and discover why speaking the Truth is no option in the Christian life. It's a must!

Very quickly, here are some Truths about the Truth.

Truth 1- God cannot lie. (Memorize this verse.)

It is impossible for God to lie. (Hebrews 6:18 NIV)

Titus echoes the same refrain. There we read,

...God who cannot lie... (from Titus 1:2 NIV)

So truth 1 is that God cannot lie. So don't tell me God led you to do something and then it turned out to be wrong. You may have misunderstood God's leading, you may misunderstand God's purposes, or you may have followed another spirit, but God did not lie to you. He cannot. It is foreign to His nature. Nor can He in you ever tell a lie. Mark it down. GOD CANNOT LIE

Truth 2- just as God cannot tell a lie, Satan cannot tell the

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truth. There is no truth in Him. He is the father of lies, that is, all lies spring forth from him. (The Father of = the source of). Jesus says this to the unbelieving Jews:

You belong to YOUR father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. When he lies (listen to this phrase), he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44 NIV)

So, Satan may allow you to tell the truth to confuse you, but he will not lead you to tell the truth... he can't. And when you are tempted to lie, stop blaming God for leading you to do that in order to "help someone" or "because it's the right thing to do."

God may have, on occasion, used even someone's lies to accomplish His purpose, but it's never the right thing to do! Satan is the father of all lies. When ever for any reason you are tempted to lie, you are not operating in the Spirit. Period.

Truth #: *Jesus doesn't represent the truth. JESUS IS THE TRUTH. He cannot be separated from the truth. Jesus is speaking:*

I AM is the Way; I AM is the Truth; I AM is the life... (John 1:17)

Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (He delivered them personally.)

In John 18 Jesus is speaking to Pilate:

You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH. Everyone on the side of truth listens to Me (the truth about God; the truth about man; the truth about truth). (John 18:37)

Pilate asked Him in verse 38, "What is truth?" and Pilate, like the world today, was standing only a breath away from it. He was looking at the Truth. He was talking to the Truth. He was beholding the truth; and all the while He was asking, "What is truth?" Jesus Christ is the embodiment of all truth.

God who cannot lie sent forth His Son who is perfect Truth... and He said of Himself... this is why I was born, this is why I came into the world, to testify to the TRUTH. JESUS IS THE TRUTH. Therefore, until you come to Christ, you cannot know the truth, and lying may be second nature to you. But once you come to Christ, you KNOW the TRUTH. And the TRUTH (Jesus)

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will, He promises, set you free.

If the Son sets you free, you're free. You need never tell or live a lie again. Until you come to Him, the very life you live is a lie. Come to Jesus; the truth will set you free.

Truth 4- *Just as God the Father cannot lie, and just as God the Son is the Truth, so God the Holy Spirit is the one who takes THE TRUTH (Jesus Christ) and reveals Truth to the world. (And truth is ALL He reveals.)*

The Spirit teaches you all things, and He is the Truth.  
(I John 2:27 NIV)

The fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness,  
and truth (Ephesians 5:9 NIV)

It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the Truth.  
(I John 5:6 NIV)

So the truth about the truth is that all truth is revealed by God's Spirit, and all God's Spirit reveals is truth. So the way to receive truth is to receive God's Spirit. The way to tell the truth and live the truth is to be led by God's Spirit. If it sounds simple, it's because it is.

Truth 5- *"I tell you the Truth,"*

Jesus' whole message is to tell us the truth (and so is ours). If you'll take a New International Concordance and look up the phrase, "I tell you the Truth," you will come to the amazing conclusion that I came to this week. That phrase is the dominant message in the New Testament whenever Jesus spoke. 87 times in the four gospels He said, "I tell you the truth." 87 times! 30 times in the Gospel of Matthew alone, Jesus began, "Truly I say," or as the NIV puts it, "I tell you the truth." You can bank on it, Jesus was saying.

I tell you the truth about the resurrection. (Matthew 19:28)

I tell you the truth about faith. (Matthew 21:21; 17:20)

I tell you the truth about hell. (Matthew 25:12)

I tell you the truth about humility. (Matthew 18:3)

I tell you the truth about riches. (Matthew 19:23)

I tell you the truth about serving. (Matthew 26:13; 25:40)

I tell you the truth about the future. (Matthew 5:18)

Jesus said it again and again and again... I AM the truth, so I

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tell you the truth. I cannot lie... whatever I say, He said, you can stake your life on. It's true. Then He turned to us and said, as the Father sent me, so send I you (to tell the truth.) So the truth about the truth is this: All truth is embodied in God. He cannot lie. His Son IS Perfect Truth. His spirit reveals only the truth.

But Satan, on the other hand, cannot tell the truth. He is the father of lies. Lying is his "native language," Jesus said. No truth is found in him.

Look at why God places so much importance on telling the truth. Lying is so abominable to God because it represents the whole thrust of the conflict between Satan and Himself. He represents truth. Satan represents a lie, and the entire conflict between Satan and GOD is spiritual warfare over the revelation of truth. It's why Jesus came...It's why Jesus died.

Truth is the absolute perfection of the character of God. Satan knows that. Satan hates that. So anytime Satan can cause one of God's children to lie (about anything!), He has denied the absolute perfection of the character of God in the child of God.

When you became a Christian, Truth came to live in your heart. Now, every time you speak the Truth, you testify of His presence. Every time you compromise and every time you "bend" the truth, you deny His Presence. Is it any wonder God so clearly demands of us, that we always, under all circumstances, tell the truth?

That, my friends, is the truth about the truth. Tell me, dare we ever lie again?

One last thing, it is just a postscript... but a terribly important one. Imagine, if you will, a scale. On the left side is the Truth. Truth is the essence of God's character. On the right side is Love. Love is the expression of God's character. That's why Paul said,

Speaking the truth in love, we will grow up INTO HIM who  
IS the Head. (Ephesians 4:15 NIV)

Telling the truth is not license to be harsh, abrupt, rude, or insensitive. The Truth is only the Essence of God. The expression of that essence is love. God by nature of His being IS love. So you cannot express the truth IN THE SPIRIT unless you express it IN LOVE.

Tell your children the truth...but tell them in love.

Tell your neighbor the truth...but tell them in love.

Tell the world the truth...but tell it in love.

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The balanced Christian tongue always speaks the truth. It cannot lie, but it always speaks in love. It cannot do otherwise, or it would violate the character of the one of whom it speaks.

Sometimes speaking the truth in love means saying very little. Sometimes the truth will hurt. Sometimes the truth will not be well received. Sometimes the truth will even offend. God knows that; but may the offense never be HOW the truth is communicated.

Christian, the sum and substance of it all is to always speak the Truth, but always speak it in love!

### SPEAK THE TRUTH

Always speak the truth, my friend;  
Speak ne'er a word not true  
For nothing but the Truth can come  
From CHRIST who dwells in you.

He cannot lie; He IS the truth;  
His spirit cannot lie.  
'Tis Satan who defies the truth  
And it he will deny.

So every time you have a choice  
Speak naught but truth, my friend,  
For as you do, the truth you speak  
With Satan will contend.

And every time you tell a lie,  
Regardless of how small,  
You've thus denied God's character  
And thus denied your call.

Always speak the truth, my friend.  
The truth comes from above,  
And always as you speak the TRUTH,  
Speak the Truth...in love.

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