

The Ten: Liar, Liar, Soul on Fire

Dr. John Carmichael

[Exo 20:1-2, 16 NASB95] 1 Then God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ... 16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- In a recent study, over 50% of resumes have lies in them. Some hiring managers see this as a good thing, because it means the applicant really wants the job.
- For many people, lying is “an ever-present help in time of need.”
- I did not believe people lied very often until I was principal of ECS for one year. I was lied to nearly every day.
- The translation of this verse used legal terms. Many scholars believe that this commandment was rendered like it is because of the sheer gravity of lying: some people could die if you lie.
- The word means: invention, falsification, fabrication, big lies, half-truths, flatteries, and silence. It included leaving out details.
- Righteous lie?
 - Hebrew midwives deceived Pharaoh to avert genocide.
 - Rahab lied to save Joshua’s spies.
 - Gideon concealed strategy of war.
 - These lies to prevent evil people from committing murder. We should not use these extreme cases to justify lies when we are in a tight spot.

What do Christians need to know about lies?

Here are three important things Christians need to know about lying.

I. God Always Tells the Truth — You Can Trust Him

- a. God is not a man that He should lie. [Num 23:19 NASB95] 19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
- b. Every word He speaks is faithful, pure, and sure.
- c. In a world full of deception and shifting narratives, God’s Word stands firm.
- d. [Tit 1:1-4 NASB95] 1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, 3 but at the proper time manifested, [even] His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior, 4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.
- e. Truth to Declare: If God said it, He’ll do it. His promises are yes and amen!
- f. Lean on His Word when the world gets shaky. Build your life on His truth—it never changes.

II. God Calls Us to Tell the Truth and Repent of Lies

- a. As children of the truth, we are called to reflect His nature in how we speak and live. Lying is not a light thing—it breaks trust, spreads harm, and grieves the Holy Spirit.
- b. [Col 3:9 NASB95] 9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its [evil] practices,
- c. [Rev 21:8 NASB95] 8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part [will be] in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

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- d. Personal life story about lying as an accountant.
- e. If we've lied—whether outright or through gossip, flattery, or silence—we need to repent. The Spirit of God empowers us to be honest even when it's hard.

III. We Must Resist the Lies of the Devil

- a. The enemy is a master of false witness—he lies about God, about others, and especially about you. His goal? To discourage, distract, and destroy.
- b. [Jhn 8:44 NASB95] 44 "You are of [your] father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [nature,] for he is a liar and the father of lies.
- c. Fight the enemy with truth: [Eph 6:13-14 NASB95] 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
 - i. Roman soldiers wore a strong, wide leather belt—called a cingulum or balteus—which was far more than a fashion statement.
 - ii. The Belt Secured Everything
 - 1. The belt held the tunic tight, so the soldier could move freely in battle.
 - 2. It also held the sword, making it accessible and ready.
 - 3. Other pieces of armor, like the breastplate, were often anchored to the belt to keep them in place.
 - iii. Without truth, everything else starts to slip and shift. The breastplate of righteousness can't hang right, and the sword of the Spirit (God's Word) has no resting place.
- d. When the enemy whispers, "You're not enough," or "God can't use you," answer with the truth of God's Word. Speak the promises out loud. This is how we fight spiritual battles—with truth.

- **God wants us to trust in the truthfulness of God, commit to truthful living and repentance, and take up truth as our weapon against the lies of the enemy.**
- **Repent of dishonest words.**
- **Pray to break free from lies the enemy has spoken over you.**
- **Receive a fresh baptism of boldness and truth in the Holy Spirit.**