



Part 6 – Tell the Truth – Living in Honesty
Selected Scriptures

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I. WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH TELLING "A LITTLE WHITE LIE"?

A. The problem with lying is that the benefits gained are only short term. The liabilities are **long** lasting.

B. What are some of the troubles we buy ourselves when we choose to lie?

1. When we lie, we damage our **character**.

*Proverbs 20:7 "Good people who live honest lives will be a **blessing** to their children."*

2. When we lie, we lose spiritual **maturity**.

*Ephesians 4:15 "We will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way **like Christ** who is the head of the body."*

Romans 8:29 "For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that Christ might be the firstborn among many brothers."

3. When we lie, we lose the **trust** of others.

Proverbs 11:6 "Doing right brings freedom to honest people..."

4. *"It's easier to tell the truth; that way you don't have to keep remembering what you said." (Mark Twain)*

C. *1 Chronicles 29:17 "I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with **integrity**."*

II. WHAT'S SO RIGHT ABOUT TELLING THE TRUTH?

A. *Proverbs 13:21 "Trouble chases sinners, while **blessings** chase the righteous!"*

B. When we are honest, God uses our integrity to actually protect our lives.

1. *Proverbs 2:7 "God is their shield, protecting those who walk with integrity."*

2. The word "shield" means to be a **bodyguard** whose sole purpose is to protect us.

C. When we are honest, God uses it to direct our steps.

*Proverbs 11:5 "The godly are **directed** by their honesty."*

D. When we are honest, God uses it to sustain us.

*Proverbs 12:19 "Truth stands the test of **time** but lies are soon exposed."*

III. HOW CAN WE GET FREEDOM FROM THE HABIT OF LYING?

A. Get honest with God and yourself about the **lying**.

Proverbs 28:13 "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

B. Recognize the **damage** that lying will cause.

Proverbs 11:3 "People who can't be trusted are destroyed by their own dishonesty."

Galatians 6:7-8 "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man (person) reaps what he sows."

C. **Admit** to those you have lied to that you have done so and ask their forgiveness.

James 5:16 "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

D. Start building a **habit** of honesty in your life.

1. Telling the truth takes **practice**, but, the more you do it the better you get at it.
2. Tell the truth **consistently**.
3. Tell the truth **lovingly**.

Ephesians 4:15 "Speak the truth in a spirit of love."

*Proverbs 27:6 "Faithful are the wounds of a **friend**."*

E. Stay close to God.

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Notes:
