

# Lying

Edited by Leon King

We find ourselves living in a society that actually conditions us to lie. Our employers ask us to lie for them on many occasions. For instance, the secretary who "covers" for the boss when he doesn't want to be disturbed and the salesman who makes claims for his product which are not true are both lying. Many times our "embellishments" on job recommendations for friends and acquaintances are nothing but lies. But God makes it clear that *"all liars shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death"* (Revelation 21:8).

Lying destroys trust. It destroys friendships, families and relationships. It destroys credibility. It shows contempt, disrespect and/or hatred for others. In other words, it makes love for others a lie in that person's life. It can cause the person to avoid being held accountable to themselves or others.

Lying would include exaggeration, so called 'little white lies', deliberately withholding facts or beliefs so that others will draw wrong conclusions about who a person or subject is about so that the perpetrator of the lie benefits, often financially. People make all manner of excuses for sin but the reality is there is no excuse for lying. If one is tempted and succumbs to lie, it needs to be dealt with as sin, and confessed and repented of. Many lie to cover their own inadequacies or ego, or to be accepted by others in some way. They do so by having determined to deliberately deceive the group, or friends, because they want to be part of the group for fellowship or other purposes. We need to develop the proper attitude toward lying. Apostle Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, admonished the Christians of his day thus: *"Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another"* (Ephesians 4:25).

- **Lying is a serious sin, worthy of death. Under the Law, the punishment for bearing false witness was death.** (Deuteronomy 19:16-21)

**Deuteronomy 19:16-21 (KJV)** *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 days; And the judges shall make 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 the evil away from among you. And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you. And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.*

- **God killed Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit** (Acts 5:1-11).

**Acts 5:1-11 (KJV)** *But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, **2** And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? **4** Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. **5** And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. **6** And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. **7** And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what*

was done, came in. **8** And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. **9** Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. **10** Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. **11** And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

- **The punishment for all liars shall be the lake of fire** (Rev 21:8).

**Revelation 21:8 (KJV)** *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

- **They shall be denied entrance into the kingdom, for they cannot dwell with God** (Psalms 15:1-2; Revelation 21:27).

**Psalms 15:1-2 (KJV)** *A Psalm of David. LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? **2** He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.*

**Revelation 21:27 (KJV)** *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

- **Lie includes flattery** (Psalms 5:9; 12:2; 62:4) and so-called "little white lies" (1 John 2:21).

**Psalm 5:9 (KJV)** *For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.*

**Psalm 12:2 (KJV)** *They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.*

**Psalm 62:4 (KJV)** *They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.*

**1 John 2:21 (KJV)** *I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.*

- **Lying is forbidden by God.** (Exodus 20:16; 23:1; Leviticus 19:11; 6:2-7; Deuteronomy 5:20; 19:18).

**Exodus 20:16 (KJV)** *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

**Exodus 23:1 (KJV)** *Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.*

**Leviticus 19:11 (KJV)** *Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.*

**Leviticus 6:2-7 (KJV)** *If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour; **3** Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: **4** Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and*

*is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found, **5** Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering. **6** And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD, a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: **7** And the priest shall make an atonement for him before the LORD: and it shall be forgiven him for any thing of all that he hath done in trespassing therein.*

**Deuteronomy 5:20 (KJV)** *Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

**Deuteronomy 19:18-19 (KJV)** *And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; **19** Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.*

- **Satan is the "father of lies."** (John 8:44).

**John 8:44 (KJV)** *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye 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.*

- **Lying is a part of our old nature, and it must be put to death** (Col 3:9-10).

**Colossians 3:9-10 (KJV)** *Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*