

THE TRUTH TEN KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS SERIES

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TEXT: Exodus 20:16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

INTRO: I may have been a pathological liar when I was growing up and before I became a lover of Jesus. Rejection was so deep, I lied to get people to accept and like me. I cheated in school so I could gain approval from my dad. I changed my report card in 5th grade, and of course I got caught for it. I lied to my friends in order to gain acceptance. Then as I sold drugs, I was a lying conman as I grew to be the number-one high school drug dealer in Montgomery County, based on the testimony of the daughter of the County Sheriff. I was broken and in sin.

Today, in this broken society, it seems that truth is dead, and we are inundated with lies. We have blatant lies being told by the media, and politicians. We call that Fake News. We had accusations of President Trump and Russian collusion that rigged the election allowing President Trump to win. Congressman Adam Schiff, who represents our district, told us over and over that he had credible witnesses that confirmed that there was Russian collusion with President Trump. Finally, after hundreds of millions of dollars spent and months of investigation, the Muller Report came out that there was no collusion. But no one is being held accountable for all the lies that were spread.

Another truth that has been debated over is the use of hydroxychloroquine. This malaria medicine has been around for 60 years. I have talked to three doctors, including my brother, and they all have said that it is effective against COVID-19 if it is taken with zinc and it is done in the early stages of the virus. In India, which has a greater population, their death rate is less than the U.S. (44,000 vs. 165,000 deaths) because they have been using hydroxychloroquine. It is much more affordable than Remdesivir. In this case, truth can save lives. One epidemiologist said on the news that we could have saved up to 100,000 lives if hydroxychloroquine was readily prescribed in the U.S.

There was a time when you had to have credentials and credibility before you could speak, and it was assumed that it was the truth. Those who went to journalism school were told to write and tell the truth, but that is no longer the case today. Unfortunately, the media has lied to us so often, they cannot be trusted.

Plus, in today's information age, anyone could blog and say whatever they want to say and not even put their name on the post. We just don't know what is true and what is fake news. It seems in our society, truth has died. But with God,

who is the God of truth, truth shines in the darkness and gives us hope for the future.

The Marxists took truth into a relative philosophy. Lenin taught that if by lying you are advancing the cause of socialism, then that was acceptable. The state newspaper, called *Pravda*, which means “Truth,” was the main propaganda vehicle to spread their lies. It makes sense, if you have an atheistic philosophy that God doesn’t exist, why should you tell the truth? Unfortunately, much of the media and people who are on the Left have bought into this mentality.

In the church, we are hungry for the truth. It is not that pastors are lying, but they are quiet and will not speak out and tell the truth. And it is not just pastors. George Barna in 2015 released the survey that people who label themselves as conservatives do not speak up. Cato Institute did a survey of 2,000 people and 63% said that they were afraid to share their true opinions on politics.

Our text speaks about specifically being in a court of law and not bearing false witness when you stand before the judge and the accused. Most of the court cases during the time of ancient Israel had to do with capital crime. To remedy against false testimony, the witness would also have to be the executioner as well. If they didn’t want to have blood on their hands, they told the truth. **Deuteronomy 17:7 The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.** Today, this verse is the basis of being sworn in the court of law, to “tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God.”

I want to help you to walk in integrity and be people of the truth. People who have integrity, and when called on to testify in court, they don’t have to fear because truth is the easiest thing to remember and a lawyer can’t trip you up. When you are lying on the stand, you have to work so hard so that you don’t get caught. **Proverbs 10:9 He who walks in integrity walks securely.** The key is knowing The Truth, Jesus Christ, and being led by the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit.

I. GOD OF TRUTH

A. OLD TESTAMENT

1. **Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.” (NKJV)**
2. **Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.**
3. **Numbers 23:19 “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. JESUS IS THE TRUTH

1. **John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**
2. Ravi Zachariah said, “Truth is more important than justice.” Social justice is LGBTQ rights. So, we have to define biblical justice so that truth of justice can be established, and not some false social justice. We need to know the Word—Jesus is the Word that became flesh.
3. **John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”**
4. There is truth, and there is the Truth. You have truth, that you cannot walk on water, but Jesus the Truth walked on water. There is empirical truth that you cannot raise the dead, but Jesus the Truth raised Lazarus from the dead.

II. PRACTICING THE TRUTH: Three Practical Suggestions

A. INTEGRITY

1. **“Integrity is the foundation of Christlike character.” Ché Ahn**
2. **Proverbs 10:9 He who walks in integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will be found out.**
3. Integrity is not “what we do” so much as “who we are.” It is having Christlike character. And who we are, in turn, determines what we do. If God has predestined us to be conformed into the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29) and He is the Truth, then He wants us to be people of integrity.
4. Unfortunately, integrity is lacking in the church.
5. Graham was once asked what the three greatest needs in the church were. He said, “Number one: integrity. Number two: integrity. Number three: integrity.”
6. Moody once said, “Character is what a person is in the dark.” In other words, integrity. Someone is integrous when he or she is consistent and genuine with others or by themselves alone before God. Integrity is being real.
7. It is the unwavering determination to do what is right. It is the fierce desire to walk in truth and speak the truth in love.
8. It must also be said that integrity void of love is no longer integrity. If integrity is defined as being upright, whole, and adhering to moral and ethical principles, then we must recognize that love is the highest ethic we have been called to as believers: Love for God, love for each other, and love for the lost.
9. **1 Corinthians 13:6 Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth.**
10. Having integrity means that in your life there is no gap between the way things are and the way things ought to be.

B. TRUTH TELLING

1. **Psalm 15:1 O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? 2 He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth from his heart.**
2. From a life of integrity, we practice truth telling. Some of the biblical truth that puts the fear of the Lord in me to tell the truth are Proverbs 6:16-17 and John 8:44.
3. **Proverbs 6:16 There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven that are an abomination to Him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood...**
4. **John 8:44 “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.”**
5. **Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness... 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator...**
6. We see deception and the downward spiral of immorality when you suppress the truth for a lie (Romans 1). Conversely, we grow to be Christlike through truth.
7. **Ephesians 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.**
8. One practical thing that I do when I slip and tell a lie: I don't let that lie remain with that person. I simply say, “I am sorry. I didn't tell you the truth. What I should have said is... Please forgive me.” Because I don't want to go through that humbling experience again, it helps me to tell the truth the first time around.
9. Truth telling is keeping your promise. With all his flaws, President Trump has kept his promises. Promises made and promises kept.

C. BEING FULL OF THE SPIRIT AND BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. **John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth...**
2. Corrie Ten Boom lied to the Nazis that she was not hiding Jews in “The Hiding Place.” I believe the Holy Spirit led her to “the truth” of saving the lives of the Jews that she and her sister Betsy were hiding.

CONCLUSION: The lad had a profound sense of admiration for his father, who saw to it that the life of the family revolved around the religious practices of their faith. The father led them to the synagogue faithfully. In his teen years, however, the boy's family was forced to move to another town in Germany. This town had no synagogue, only a Lutheran church. The life of the community revolved around the Lutheran church; all the best people belonged to it. Suddenly, the father announced to the family that they were going to abandon their Jewish traditions and join the Lutheran church. When the stunned family asked why, the father explained that it would be good for his business. The youngster was bewildered and confused. His deep disappointment soon gave way to anger and a kind of intense bitterness that plagued him throughout his life. Later, he left Germany and went to England to study. Each day found him at the British Museum formulating his ideas and composing a book. In that book he introduced a whole new worldview and conceived a movement that was designed to change the world. He described religion as the "opiate for the masses." He committed the people who followed him to life without God. His ideas became the norm for the governments of almost half the world's people. His name? Karl Marx, founder of the Communist movement. The history of the 20th century and perhaps beyond was significantly affected because one father let his values become distorted. (From the *Fire Evangelism* chapter on Integrity.)