

## 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: Today, in this broken society, it seems that truth is dead, and we are inundated with lies. 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. 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.

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.

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.”

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.

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.

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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. JESUS IS THE TRUTH

1. **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.”**
2. **John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**
3. 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.

## II. PRACTICING THE TRUTH: Three Practical Suggestions

### A. VALUE 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. Billy 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. 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. From a life of integrity, we practice truth telling.
2. 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.
3. Truth telling is keeping your promises. Our God is a Promise Keeper. 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. 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.
3. When you are aligned with God's truth, you enter into the supernatural realm.

**CONCLUSION:** We need to change the way we think as we come to God. Give your heart to Jesus and receive a baptism of truth today!