

The 7 Things God Hates
Lying Tongue – When Truth Gets Distorted
Dr. John Carmichael

[Pro 6:16-19 NASB95] 16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: 17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, 19 A false witness [who] utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

- When we talk about “a lying tongue,” someone inevitably asks: “What about Rahab?”
 - Rahab lied to protect the spies in Joshua 2. Yet Hebrews 11 and James 2 praise her faith. That raises an important truth: Scripture praises her faith and allegiance, not her deception.
 - The Bible often reports actions without endorsing every detail of them. **Just because something is recorded does not mean it is prescribed.** Rahab is celebrated because she shifted allegiance to Yahweh, not because lying became righteous. Her story magnifies grace through her obedience not her deception.
 - That distinction matters. There is no scripture that teaches situations when it permitted to lie. There is no such thing as a “righteous lie.”
- Because when Proverbs says God hates “a lying tongue,” it is confronting distortion of truth for self-preservation, image management, or advantage. Defined: a lie is an intention to deceive.
- Jesus said in John 8:44 that the devil is the father of lies. That means lying is not neutral. It has a spiritual source.
- And for Spirit-filled believers, this is weighty. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth (John 16:13). When truth is compromised, spiritual clarity dims. Lies don’t just affect ethics. They affect atmosphere.
- Truth is not merely ethical. Truth is atmospheric. Truth is spiritual.

What does the NT believer need to know about lying?

Here are four important truths that NT believers need to know about lying.

I. LYING REVEALS SPIRITUAL ALIGNMENT

- a. [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.
- b. Jesus makes a bold declaration: God is truth. The devil is deception.
- c. There is no neutral ground. Lying is not just poor character. It is misplaced allegiance.
- d. This why we need truth in our government, churches, news, and our families.
- e. [Col 3:9-10 NASB95] 9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its [evil] practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him
- f. Lying belongs to the old nature, not the new creation. Isn’t it fascinating that Christians have to be told not to lie.
- g. Practical Application: Examine subtle distortions: exaggeration, spin, curated narratives. Refuse image management. Commit to transparent speech before God and people.

II. LYING GRIEVES THE HOLY SPIRIT AND DAMAGES ATMOSPHERE

- a. [Eph 4:25 NASB95] 25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE [of you] WITH HIS NEIGHBOR,** for we are members of one another.
- b. Truth protects unity because we belong to one another.

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- c. The Case of Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:1–11 [Act 5:1-11 NASB95] 1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and kept back [some] of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back [some] of the price of the land? 4 "While it remained [unsold,] did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**" 5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. 6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him. 7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price." 9 Then Peter [said] to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out [as well.]" 10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.
- i. Peter says: "You have not lied to men but to God."
 - ii. The issue was not generosity. It was reputation. (Preachers are guilty of lying about attendance, offerings, effectiveness of ministry including miracles and telling other people's testimonies as their own.)
 - iii. They wanted the appearance of sacrifice without the reality of surrender.
 - iv. They lied to the Holy Spirit.
- d. Lies fracture discernment and invite deception. Where deception is tolerated, revival weakens. Truth sustains the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- e. [Eph 4:30 NASB95] 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- f. Practical Application: Refuse spiritual exaggeration. Guard the integrity of testimony. Choose transparency over applause.

III. TRUTH IS THE BELT OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- a. [Eph 6:14 NASB95] 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
- b. The belt holds the armor together. The belt was significant to the Roman armor. They never took their belt off.
 - i. Identity: Mark of a soldier's status and honor; removal meant humiliation.
 - ii. Support: Held weapons and stabilized armor, shifting weight to the hips.
 - iii. Protection: Reinforced straps guarded the groin.
 - iv. Utility: Carried essential tools and gear.
- c. [Psa 15:4 NASB95] 4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the LORD; He swears to his own hurt and does not change;
- d. Integrity means telling the truth even when it costs.
- e. You cannot fight spiritual battles with compromised speech. Many spiritual defeats can be traced to lies. Truth stabilizes spiritual authority. A lying tongue opens doors the armor was meant to close.
- f. Practical Application: Speak truth even when it hurts. Align private words with public confession. You cut off the head of Satan when you speak truth.

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IV. DECEPTION HAS ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES

- a. [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."
 - b. God hates lying because He loves truth.
- **A lying tongue does more than distort facts, it disrupts spiritual atmosphere and aligns speech with a source that opposes the Spirit of truth.**
 - Rahab's story shows us grace meets imperfect beginnings.
 - But Proverbs reminds us that for the covenant community, truth is non-negotiable.
 - God wants redemption for you and to help you. Repent of lying and watch your armor begin to work. Start telling the truth today. Stop the spiritual defeats.
 - We must be people of uncompromised truth.