

I Love My Addiction

A Program with a Purpose – Exposing Your Value to God

1 Corinthians 16:15

Lesson Eight

Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire

He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit (Proverbs 12:17).

Lesson Seven, the lesson on music, was a tough principle to accept; even tougher to apply. The entire human race seems to exist with music that is adapted to their activities. But rest assured, if you will begin the practice of only allowing good God honoring music in your mind, your new Master and Shepherd will actively guide you in the ways to change your addiction from a destructive one into an addiction that will be used by Him to win others to Christ! ***For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death*** (Psalm 48:14).

The lesson this week will prove to be equally difficult, but will also become one of the greatest tools in building your new life of freedom! Learning to tell the truth in every situation of your life will give you great peace in your heart. It will also unleash the compassion, graciousness, longsuffering and mercy God has stored up for you! ***Lying lips are abomination*** {extreme hatred} ***to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight*** (Proverbs 12:22) (definition added).

Remove the lying tongue and replace it with one that only speaks truth. Dwelling in the presence of God at all times is what gives you the necessary strength to overcome your destructive habits. Those who choose to speak lies sacrifice the presence of the Almighty God, ***Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight*** (Psalm 101:6, 7).

Regaining the trust from those you have lied to in the past will take time. You may have said, *You have my word on it*, or *I promise* and then you went right back to the old ways; this has created nothing but doubt and distrust to the victims of your deceit. Do not expect to earn the respect of those that have been devastated by your former addictive habits over-night. It will take time and consistency to win their trust again; it may even take years before some will believe you again. This does not give you an excuse to say, what's the use! ***Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord*** (1 Corinthians 15:58). You must always keep in mind that you are valuable to God! Your dedication to telling the truth will give you a platform to tell others

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how to change their destructive addictions into productive habits! You can use your past to build your future! Truth is powerful!

The Bible gives us an account that will help you to understand that not all will believe that you are a changed person. Before the Apostle Paul met Christ Jesus, he was known as Saul of Tarsus. He had a reputation of hating and killing Christians. His character was known by both the believers and the lost. After his conversion, it took time for the believers to trust him; you can only imagine the fear that these believers must have had. Human nature causes people to lie and cheat to accomplish their goals in life. I am sure they must have thought that Saul was faking his conversion to seek and destroy these new Christians:

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. (Acts 9:10-16)

Saul was a religious zealot. He believed he was doing God a favor by getting rid of what he felt was trouble to the Jewish faith. As Paul testified, he told the truth about his past to all! This gave him power to become the greatest missionary in the Bible. God used the Apostle Paul to pen down the words in over half of the New Testament. God is no respecter of persons; you too can become God's chosen vessel. Just like the Apostle Paul, God will use your past to give you the platform to do great things for Him too! Notice a few thoughts from this text:

1. God spoke to the heart of a fellow believer, giving him direction to help a man that was addicted to violence against those of a different belief – ***And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus:***

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2. Ananias knew who Saul was; this caused him to question God – ***Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:***
3. God basically told Ananias, DO AS I SAY! – ***Go thy way:***
4. God then informed Ananias that Saul was valuable to Him – ***for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:***
5. God also gave instructions to inform Saul, now referred to as the Apostle Paul, that his new calling would not be easy – ***For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.***

In order to regain trust from those you have betrayed, you must never be caught in a lie again! As much as the truth may hurt, it will also give you great comfort in knowing that you no longer need to hide anything! Get it all out in the open and press on! ***Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*** (James 5:16). A truthful person has direct access to God's Throne. This type of confession can be the most difficult, but will prove to relieve you of the guilt and shame that could drive you back to the old destructive ways.

Notice what Paul's reaction to the lack of trust his fellow believer had toward him:

And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. (Acts 9:19-22)

1. Paul took a little time to receive his physical strength – ***And when he had received meat, he was strengthened.***

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- a. It will take some time for your body to get rid of all the chemicals that you have been using.
 - b. It will also take some time for your mind to replace things you have been listening to and looking at, with productive thoughts and images, ***And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*** (Romans 12:2).
 - c. It will also take time and practice to always speak the truth; the quicker you begin, the easier it will become. As the Great Shepherd speaks to your heart while you are telling a lie, immediately, stop in your tracks and tell the truth instead.
2. Paul did not hang out with his former partners in crime – ***Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.***
 3. After a season of rest and recuperation, he began to testify of the saving and healing power of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd and Master – ***And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.***
 4. His testimony amazed those in the audience; friends family members and families of his victims may have been present to hear – ***But all that heard him were amazed,***
 5. Some remembered his old ways and questioned his identity – ***Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?***
 6. His new life proved his value to God and man, **AND SO CAN YOURS!** – ***But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.*** When we tell the truth, we display the Truth who is Jesus Christ

Paul may have suffered many things because of his new life in Christ, but the testimony of his conversion has been directing souls to the LORD for a multitude of years after he was gone to Glory! Do not allow the reaction of people, as they hear of your conversion, affect you! **But**

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sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15). Some will gladly receive your testimony and pray for you, while others will curse you and say harmful things. Be prepared for each response, but know that God is pleased and, as the Scripture proclaims, both God and man will see the new person that speaketh truth:

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Proverbs 3:3-6).

The word **truth** describes Jesus perfectly! Everything He ever said or did was based on Truth! When you become known for continuously telling the truth, your testimony will then be able to be used of God! **And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch** (Acts 11:26). The name **Christian**, is used three times in the Scriptures. The real meaning of being a Christian is to be *Christlike*, in every area of your life. In this lesson, we will see exactly what Jesus, your new Shepherd, has to say about the topic of always *telling the truth*. It will become easy to recognize how God will come to your rescue and give you help in your time of need as you remove the lies you once used to disguise your sin and replace them with complete and total truth, **He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy** (Proverbs 28:13).

Because of the Apostle Paul's testimony, King Agrippa fell under heavy conviction of his sin, yet due to his God given ability to choose, King Agrippa decided to deny Christ rather than accepting the free gift of eternal life. Chances are, he will remember that day for eternity in the flames of Hell, **Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian** (Acts 26:28). The third place the name Christian is found in 1 Peter 4:16, **Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.** It is an honor and a privilege to suffer as a Christian!

Jesus, the Good Shepherd and Master, is Truth, **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me** (John 14:6). Jesus was quick to let

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everyone know that every word He ever said was the truth. One false statement from the mouth of a man always causes one to wonder if the next word from their lips will also be a lie.

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. As he spake these words, many believed on him. The said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:29-32)

In this passage, Jesus, our Instructor, is informing His followers of several truths. The truth He presented worked for the disciples then and they will also work for you now.

1. Everything Jesus did pleased God the Father – ***for I do always those things that please him.***
2. He taught the Jewish people that they too could be followers of Christ, if they shadowed His example—Christlike – ***If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;***
3. He promised them that by knowing and following truth, the freedom from the sin that has taken their family, future and finances is attainable – ***And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***
4. To be made free is much different than being set free!

By accepting Christ into your life, as your personal Lord and Saviour, He made you into a brand-new creature and has promised to help you make the old destructive addictions disappear and replace them with new productive habits that will change your life forever! ***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*** (2 Corinthians 5:17). Free from the judgment of sin and the bondage of sin.

In John chapter eight, Jesus continues to teach the audience that was made up of both believers and non-believers. The unbelieving Jews spoke up with their taunting questions:

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They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father (John 8:33-38).

1. Jesus was quick to expose the fact that they were addicted to sin – ***Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin*** (John 8:34).
2. He informed the unbelievers that the servant who did not desire to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, Saviour and the only One who could make them free, would soon be evicted from the presence of God for all eternity – ***And the servant abideth not in the house for ever*** (John 8:35).
3. He then exposes the source of their unbelief and the underlying reason why they sought to kill Him – ***and ye do that which ye have seen with your father*** (John 8:38).

Our Instructor gave some ways to identify a man who is of follower of Christ – ***Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do you not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word*** (John 8:42, 43).

1. Jesus told them that a love for Him would reveal their belief in the true God of Abraham – ***If God were your Father, ye would love me:***
2. He again taught them that He was the promised Messiah – ***for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.***
3. He then exposed the reason they did not believe was due to the fact that they chose to follow the traditions of men instead of the written Word of God – ***Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.***

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The next verse must have infuriated the unbelievers in the crowd:

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. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not (John 8:44).

The source behind every single lie that proceeds out of the mouth of men comes from the father of lies, Satan himself! Satan used several small lies mixed in with several truths to deceive Eve in the Garden of Eden. There is no such thing as a little white lie; a lie is a lie and the devil fathered them all! ***And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity. Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD*** (Jeremiah 9:5, 6). Iniquity is much different than sin; to lie is a sin; to continue lying without concern of what God thinks is iniquity! ***Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth*** (John 17:17).

It is absolutely vital that you constantly remind yourself that Satan is the father of all lies! Honesty is a character that mirrors the personality of Jesus. To successfully overcome destructive addictions, you must love what God loves and hate what He hates! We will now survey some verses in our Divine Library to see exactly what God thinks of liars:

- ***For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue*** (Psalm 109:2). The lying tongue is completely against God. God describes the liar as wicked and deceitful.
- ***These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren*** (Proverbs 6:16-19). God hates pride; it was the sin that got Lucifer exiled from Heaven. It was a lie that got Adam and Eve banished from the Garden of Eden! God's hate list starts with His hatred of pride, includes

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the lying tongue in verse seventeen and the person that speaks them in verse nineteen. God reserves the right to hate the wicked but we are commanded to love everyone.

- ***A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies*** (Proverbs 14:5). Honesty is the character of a Christian, but you can **NEVER** trust a liar!
- ***The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death*** (Proverbs 21:6). Many will try to acquire treasures by using lies. Treasures acquired with lies will soon be gone! One man said, fast cash spends fast! Life is produced by truth; death comes from a lying tongue!
- ***A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin*** (Proverbs 26:28). The lie will only produce problems to both the liar and the victim of the lie. The liar does not care how the deceit will hurt their victims.

The book of Proverbs is the best source to see what God thinks about a man's character. He will guide you in all truth with this book of Wisdom. Make sure that you read a chapter a day of this wonderful book. The Bible teaches that, ***Open rebuke is better than secret love*** (Proverbs 27:5). Telling a lie to make someone feel good will accomplish nothing, ZERO! ***Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful*** (Proverbs 27:6). A genuine friend will always tell the truth, even if it hurts! Sometimes the truth is difficult to accept, but in the long run, the truth will make all things well!

Again, we will see the source of the lie in an example found in the early church. Ananias and Sapphira devised a plan in their hearts to make them look like perfect followers of Christ, but God revealed unto Peter the lie in a matter of seconds after it came out of Ananias's mouth, ***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?*** (Acts 5:3).

1. Satan was the source of the lie
2. The Holy Ghost was the actual person that the lie affected
3. Greed and pride were the motives behind the lie

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There is nothing that you can say or do that the God of Heaven is not aware of. With this in mind, why would you try to deceive anyone with a lie, ***Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds***; (Colossians 3:9). The person that has addicted themselves to the ministry will always tell the truth, even if it hurts. Telling the truth will give you great peace in your heart! You will have the blessings of God, while realizing the freedom from the bondage of your lies! Not to mention, you do not have to try to remember what you said, the truth always stays the same.

The main person you must stop lying to is the man in the mirror. It is so easy to convince yourself that what you are doing is not really that bad. One big lie you tell yourself is that you can stop anytime you want to or, you don't need anyone to help you stop, you can do it on your own. From the words of a former addict; *I Got This!* This man told me that he did not receive the help of God until he realized that he was totally helpless in conquering his additions on his own and that God was ready and willing to come to his rescue if he called on Him!

These lies are a product of pride, the sin that got Lucifer, the old devil kicked out of Heaven. God has given you a copy of the Book of Truth! He calls Himself Truth in John 14:6, ***Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***

You cannot handle a little bit of your old sin. The pleasure of the sin that once held you bound will take you to a place where you forget the consequences of your sin and cause you to bask in the remembrance of the pleasure until you are right back where your addiction took you the last time you tried it without God! It is absolutely essential to be successful in conquering your addiction that you fully trust, by faith, what God says in His Word.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways (James 1:5-8).

Listen carefully to the consequences the habitual liar will face, ***For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord*** (James 1:7). According to this passage, double minded people

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are foolish to think that God will help them in any area of their lives. Tell the truth to yourself, tell the truth to God and tell the truth in every conversation that you have! We must have God involved in every area of our lives! We cannot afford to miss out on any blessings!

Investigators always use repetitious questions to trip up the person in their own lies. When you tell the truth, you never have to remember the exact details of your lie. You can be sure your sin will find you out! ***But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out*** (Numbers 22:33).

This lesson has been designed to help you see the need to remove the old ways of telling lies to get out of trouble and replace the lie with the solid truth.

1. What will give you the necessary strength to overcome your destructive habits?
2. What will it take to regain the trust from those you have lied to in the past?
3. What must you do in order to regain this trust?
4. What will give you peace in your heart and unleash the compassion of God?
5. What will happen by accepting Christ into your life as your personal Lord and Saviour?
6. What is one way to identify a man who is a follower of Christ?
7. Who is the source behind every lie that is told?
8. What was the motive behind Ananias and Sapphira's sin?
9. What will the person who has addicted themselves to the ministry always do?
10. How much of your old sin do you think you can handle?

(Answers to these questions are all located within the pages of this lesson)

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Regardless of what you have been told or even what you may think, God loves you enough to make you free from your destructive addictions and restore your life to the purpose in which He created you—***Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created*** (Revelation 4:11). By changing your shepherd from self to Jesus, the ***Good Shepherd***, you will begin to bring God the pleasure you were created for. God wants to use you to tell others how to receive the same freedom you now have and introduce lost souls to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. ***Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins*** (James 5: 20).

God the Father wants His children to be successful and prosperous, ***Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long*** (Psalm 35:27, 28). As you continue to trust in your new Shepherd, Jesus, He will make you prosperous so you can cheerfully, without being ashamed, tell others about His great love—you are valuable in His eyes! ***Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee*** (Psalm 51:12, 13).

Seek Knowledge

Apply the new-found Knowledge and Wisdom to your life

Then, teach others the secret to your success!

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:19).

Memory Verses:

The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment (Proverbs 12:19).

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways (James 1:7, 8).

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Suggested reading:

- Proverbs chapter 12
- 5 chapters of Psalms daily
- Acts chapter 5

Model prayer to help you remove the old ways of telling lies to get out of trouble and replace the lie with the solid truth:

Dear Heavenly Father, please help me to never tell a lie again! I rely on Your guidance in my heart to help me become the chosen vessel You desire me to be. Thank You for loving me and helping me! In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

Be sure to pass out at least five Gospel tracts this week and invite at least one person to come to class with you next week. Use your past to build your future!