

A Life of Truth and Honesty

1. Be alert for religious deception.

a. Religious deception claims to bring messages from God.

Ezekiel 13:6 *They see falsehood and lying divination who are saying, 'The LORD declares,' when the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope for the fulfillment of their word.*

Ezekiel 22:28 *Her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD has not spoken.*

b. Religious deception denies the truth about Jesus.

1 John 2:22 *Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?*

c. Religious deception tells people that they are okay when they are not okay.

Ezekiel 13:10 *They have misled My people by saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace.*

Zechariah 10:2 *For the teraphim speak iniquity, And the diviners see lying visions And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep, They are afflicted, because there is no shepherd.*

2. Identify the lies of sin.

Amos 2:4 *Their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked.*

Proverbs 7:21-23 *With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him. Suddenly he follows her as an ox goes to the slaughter ... he does not know that it will cost him his life.*

3. Seek spiritual honesty.

Acts 5:1-11

James 3:14 *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.*

1 John 1:6 *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

1 John 2:4 *The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

1 John 4:20 *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*

Ephesians 4:25 *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*

4. Commit to no spin.

Jeremiah 9:4 *Let everyone be on guard against his neighbor, And do not trust any brother; Because every brother deals craftily, And every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. "Everyone deceives his neighbor And does not speak the truth, They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves committing iniquity.*

Proverbs 26:28 *A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.*

Exodus 20:16 *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

5. Get to the heart of the matter.