

## **NEVER LIE!**

**Request:** “Is there ever a situation when lying is acceptable? I noticed that Rahab made the Faith Hall of Fame regarding two Israelite spies:

“By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace” (Heb.11:31).

Yet, when you read the story, she lied to the police of Jericho regarding these spies (Josh.2:1-14).”

I thought about the promo clip of a new TV program called, “Lie to Me,” that says the average person lies 3 times every 10 minutes. While this statistic may be true of the world, it should never be true of the spiritually advancing believer.

Let’s begin by a general definition of lying:

**World Book Dictionary** defines lying as a false and deliberate statement known to be false by the person who makes it with the purpose of deceiving.

**Unger Bible Dictionary** defines lying as the utterance by speech or act of that which is false, with an intent to mislead or delude.

This would include fibs and little white lies.

- A “fib” is an untruth considered as trivial.
- A “little white lie” is an untruth considered to be harmless.

“I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.” (1 John 2:21)

**This lesson will study four aspects of why it is important for spiritual advancing believers NEVER TO LIE!**

### **1. It has been suggested by some that Rahab is a perfect example of “Situational Ethics”.**

They suggest that the fact that she is listed in Heb.11:31 proves that God approved of her lying!

“But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, ‘Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And it came about when it was time to shut the gate, at dark that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.’” (Josh.2:4-5)

The doctrinal concept of “Situational Ethics” was developed in the 1980’s by an Episcopal priest named Joseph Fletcher.

“It basically states that sometimes moral principles can be cast aside in certain situations, if LOVE is best served. As Paul Tillich once put it; ‘Love is the ultimate law.’” (Wikipedia)

To buy into Situational Ethics is to believe that “the end justifies the means, if it is based upon LOVE”. It assumes that God is either unwilling or unable to resolve the situation! (By faith)

**Allow me to remind you of the “four steps to disappointment” principle:**

**False assumptions lead to false interpretations, which lead to false expectations, leading to false applications**

**Lying is NEVER a bona fide substitute for faith in the truth of God's Word.**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego are examples of this doctrinal principle (Dan.3:16-18, 24-27; Heb.13:7-8)

**2. Some believers feel the need to inject or default to Situational Ethics in order to justify lying. Thinking that the end justifies the means.**

The world does not operate by an absolute standard of righteousness but the Christian should. "A righteous man hates falsehood, but a wicked man acts disgustingly and shamefully." (Prov.13:5)

Let me give three believers who chose to use Situational Ethics to justify lying.

- **Michal lied** to protect David from a psychotic killer (1 Sam.19:11-18).
- **Peter lied** to protect himself from an angry crowd (Matt.26:69-75).
- **Rahab lied** to protect 3 strangers to protect herself and family (Josh.2:1-14) [switched sides].

Each of them applied the doctrinal concept of Situational Ethics rather than faith in the Truth of the Word of God. Michal and Peter could have chosen Truth of the promise of God (Rom.4:21). However, we can't expect Rahab to apply what she didn't know.

- Michal could have believed the truth of 1 Sam.17:37 (God is able) (Eph.3:20).
- Peter could have believed the truth of Matt.26:34-35 (forewarned is forearmed).
- Rahab didn't know the truth of Josh.1:5-6. While she became God-conscious, she probably didn't become a believer in Christ until after the fall of Jericho (gospel hearing).

"Truthful lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment." (Prov.12:19)

**3. Veracity (truthfulness) is one of the basic essences of the Godhead.**

<b>God is</b>	<b>Veracity</b>	(Titus 1:2; Heb.6:18; Rom.3:4)
<b>Jesus is</b>	<b>Veracity</b>	(John 1:14; 14:6)
<b>Holy Spirit is</b>	<b>Veracity</b>	(John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; Acts 5:3-4)
<b>The Word of God is</b>	<b>Veracity</b>	(Ps.116:11; Prov.30:6; 1 John 2:21; John 8:32)

Lying is 1 of 6 things God hates while a seventh is abomination (Prov.6:16-19). "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal faithfully are His delight." (Prov.12:22)

**4. Lying is one of the basic essences of Satan, demons, false teachers, and old man cosmos diabolicus.**

Satan (John 8:44)

Demons and false teachers (1 Tim.4:1-2)

OMCD (James 3:14-16; Col.3:8-10; Eph.4:21-25; Matt.16:23) [reversionism]

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Rom.12:2)

Since God is truthful and cannot lie and Satan is a liar that cannot tell the truth, if you lie, whose side do you represent?

"Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." (1 John 3:18)

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers." (John 4:23)

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