



Deception and Lying are wrong! And The exceptions to lying found in scripture

I truly recognize and believe that the true antidote and remedy to lying and deception is a change of heart. Unless people become born again by receiving Jesus and believing in Him as their Lord and Savior, ungodliness-- in this respect lying and deception will not decrease. It is the fear of the Lord that causes people to depart from sin. This is not to say that believers in Jesus never lie. True, they already have new hearts but they still have the same old mind and thinking that has to change. It must be renewed and transformed according to God's word (Romans 12:1-2). What a believer has to do is just renew their minds through God's word.

We live in a time where deception is something that lots of people promote, practice, and enjoy. Some have built their lives and careers on deception and lying. People say what they do not mean, and do not say what they mean. They say one thing but do the very opposite. I do not know about you but I hate lying and I do anything that I can not to.

What is lying and what is Deception?

Lying generally involves deliberate falsehood, told with the intent of misleading or causing someone to believe error.

Lying and deception are severe and very detrimental to our lives than most people think. How many lives, relationships, marriages, careers have been destroyed because of lying? How many people have lost everything only because of some false witness or deception? How many people are in jail because of some deception? How many false allegations have

been placed on others later on to destroy their lives? We live in serious times where evil in the form of deception is on a rise.

Insecurity is one of the main reason people love to deceive. They want to paint a different picture of themselves so they resort to lying. True self-worth and security comes from a relationship with Jesus. Those that do not think twice to lie have not encountered the life-transforming Jesus. Most people do not even want to hear the truth of any sort because they are so in tune with lies. Take an example of some of the politicians, to most people they have huge respect for the offices they hold but many of them are so immoral. Many are hypocrites and liars yet they parade themselves as the champions of morality. They show how far the moral decay has gone in our society. The point for this teaching is not to teach moralism but to point out the damage caused by lying and deception and the need for us to repent, some of us starting with a heart change and the rest of us with renewing our minds.

I desire that in the end, people can learn what the Word teaches about lying and deception and also develop an intense hatred for lying. We need to hate sin (in this case lying) and not love it or toy with it because **"Fools make a mock at sin" Proverbs 14:9**

If we do not hate lying, we will practice it eventually. Hatred is one of the weapons we can use to overcome sin. What you do not hate you will do eventually. Proverbs 8:13 says **"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."**

Let's define lying and deception. Lying is of many forms. It's commonly seen as someone saying something that is not true. Although that right, there is much more to it than just that.

- a) Saying or propagating something that is not true(false).
- b) Misrepresentation of the truth e.g. filling out an application
- c) Exaggeration
- d) Distorting facts
- e) Willfully providing wrong information
- f) Flattery
- g) Tricking, scheming, and taking advantage of another.

- h) Manipulation of another's opinion of you.
- i) Concealment withholding information
- j) Half-truths or intentional omission

Deception has a clear origin, and it is not God. John 8:44 says "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."

These verses make it clear that Satan is the father of lies or the source of lies. Every time we indulge in deception we are yielding and are being influenced by the devil.

Here is what the word teaches about deception:

- a) Proverbs 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.
 - i) Those who are just, godly and righteous know what is delightful and appropriate and what is not. They do not just speak anything. They are slow to speak. They do not delight in deception. The Message says, "The speech of a good person clears the air; the words of the wicked pollute it."
 - ii) A godly person can be seen and known by the words of their mouth because of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45).
 - iii) Proverbs 17:7 "Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince."
- b) Proverbs 11:18 The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.
 - i) Deceit is wickedness. Every time we are untruthful, we are sowing seed and we will reap corruption (Galatians 6:7-8).
 - ii) Deception is wicked. Every time we deceive we are doing a wicked work.
 - iii) We should be truthful all the time. Deceptiveness should be left for the ungodly. It's their way of life.

- c) Proverbs 12:17 He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.
- i) Righteousness and godliness can be shown by speaking truth. On the other side, speaking lies shows ungodliness and wickedness.
- d) Proverbs 12:19-20 The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment. Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy.
- i) Many times, we tend to think that by lying we get out of trouble. Even though there might be some immediate benefit to it, its end will not stand.
 - This is shortsightedness.
 - The truth is the best way to move forward.
 - The truth stands and will endure the test of time but lies are just temporal. Soon, they will be exposed.
 - ii) For us to deceive others, we must imagine it in our hearts. It doesn't just happen. Whenever we imagine evil, we will be deceitful. Deceit is a fruit of the evil imagination in our hearts.
- e) Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.
- i) The word abomination here means something that is hated, abhorred, and disgusting. God hates lying, cheating, false witness, and deception (Proverbs 6:16-19). All this does is to hurt other people.
 - ii) However, He delights and has pleasure in the truth. If we are to deal in truth, we bring God tremendous pleasure and joy. It is true we have been forgiven of all sin including lying but that doesn't mean that God enjoys it nor delights in it.
- f) Proverbs 13:5 A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

- i) The Word of God teaches and encourages us to hate evil (Proverbs 8:13; Psalm 97:10; Proverbs 14:16; Romans 12:9). Part of hating evil is to hate lying. We must hate what God hates.
- ii) The other side of love that people do not talk about is hate.
- iii) Leviticus 19:17 "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him."
 - Hate is an ingredient of love. Hate hates the bad and clings on to the good. If we hate evil such as lying, we are walking in God's kind of love.
 - It is loving to hate that which is destructive to you and others. Deception and lying are destructive.
 - A love that doesn't hate is not a true godly kind of love.
 - Proverbs 6:16-19, clearly shows that God hates. He also would not tell us to hate evil if He himself doesn't hate it.
 - When we hate evil, we are walking in righteousness and at the same time show forth righteousness. Hate evil, Hate lying!
- g) Proverbs 14:5 A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.
 - i) A person that lies is not faithful. He is not reliable. He is undependable and untrustworthy. He can't be trusted. He will not keep his word. He has no integrity.
 - ii) A person that will not and refuses to lie is a faithful person. He can be trusted and promoted. Faithful people do not lie. They will stick to the truth even if it could cause them a loss.
- h) Proverbs 14:25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.
 - i) Whenever we are truthful even in our witness, we deliver people from trouble, danger, and death.

- ii) Deception and lying could cost another person's life, career, job, friends, family, and even jail time.
 - If we are not men and women of truth, we are bound to destroy other people's lives.
 - Speaking the truth is far superior to speaking lies, deception, and false witnesses.
- i) Proverbs 16:23 The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.
 - i) The heart (soulish part of the heart) of the person is the reason why people are deceptive and/or speak lies.
 - ii) If the heart is right, the mouth should be speaking the life and truth from deep within. (Luke 6:45). To teach our mouths and to add understanding to our lips, we must deal with the heart (Spirit and/or Soul) for it is the very source of our words.
 - iii) We can tell where the heart of the person is by what is spoken and said most of the time because from the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45). This means that occasional slips are not a total reflection of our hearts. Our hearts can be seen by its abundance. What is coming out of our hearts the majority of the time reflects the abundance of our hearts.
- j) Proverbs 19:5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.
 - i) We are deceiving and fooling ourselves to think that when we lie we will get away with it. It is just a matter of time.
 - ii) A lying tongue is but for a moment (Proverbs 12:19). We will pay the price either in this life or in the one to come. Punishment awaits the false witnesses.
 - iii) Life and death are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21). We should be careful not to release that death through deception, false witness, and lies.

- iv) This verse shows clearly that bearing a false witness and speaking lies is the same thing.
- k) Proverbs 21:6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.
- i) Some people increase wealth and riches by taking advantage of others through lying and cheating.
 - This will soon or later backfire. We should stick to doing things in a godly matter. We should be faithful and truthful.
 - ii) Proverbs 13:22 "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just."
 - If we only realized that money can make itself wings and fly away (Proverbs 23:4-5), we would be behaving so differently.
 - Proverbs 13:11 "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase."
 - Proverbs 10:2 "Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death."
- l) Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.
- i) Lying is hatred of another person. If you lie about another person, you do not love him. Whenever we take advantage of another, we hate them.
 - ii) This verse shows that lying and flattery are the same things.
 - Lying is attempting to manipulate other people's opinions of us.
 - If we love a person, we will not lie about him.
 - Love at least does unto the other what we would want them to do unto us.

- If we don't want to be lied about, manipulated, and taken advantage of, we should not do it to others.

m) Proverbs 29:12 If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

- i) If a person in leadership or position in authority listens to lies, it is because his immediate leaders and close company are of liars. The people close to him and around him are wicked because they are manipulating his opinion of them. Again, lying is a wicked work.

n) Proverbs 30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

- i) Lastly, this verse encourages us to remove ourselves far from lies.
- ii) This is like what other verses say about us abstaining from the appearance of all evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

Conclusion

It is a lot better to speak the truth the very first time because if you lie once, you will need to lie to cover that lie and lie to cover that lie on and on the list goes. You will never quit lying. It takes a lot of cunningness and hard work to lie (Proverbs 13:15).

It must be made clear that lying is wrong, and it is sin and ungodly. God hates it (Proverbs 6:17-19).

Make up your mind that from today going forward you are going to walk in the truth, not deception.

The exception to lying in scripture. When is lying accepted in Scripture?

It is evident in the Word of God that God has nothing to do with lies and that it is not in His nature (John 8:44; Acts 5:1-11; Col. 3:9; Rev. 21:27).

Nonetheless, there are times when lying was permissible. This might come as a shocker to some, but it is true as we examine scriptures.

If someone came in and was asking for me to reveal where my wife and kids are so he could rape, and/or murder them, I am not telling them the truth. It would be insane for me to reveal their location just so I do not lie to the killer. Lying to a killer or having one of your loved ones killed because of telling them the truth, what would you choose?

In the article about **Corrie Ten Boom** on <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/corrie-ten-boom> goes:

"After World War II began, members of the ten Boom family became involved in resistance efforts. Two nephews worked in resistance cells. Various family members sheltered young men sought by the Nazis for forced labor and assisted Jews in contacting persons willing to hide them. Corrie became directly involved in these efforts when, along with her father and sister Betsie, she decided to hide Jews in the family home in Haarlem, the Netherlands. Using her job as a watchmaker in her father's shop as a cover, Corrie built contacts with resistance workers, who assisted her in procuring ration books and building a hiding place in the family home.

Six people, among them both Jews and resistance workers, hid in this hiding place when the Gestapo (German secret state police) raided the house on February 28, 1944. Those in hiding remained undiscovered. Several days after the raid resistance workers transferred them to other locations. In the meantime, however, the Gestapo had arrested Corrie ten Boom, her father, her brother, and two sisters, and other family members. In addition, the Gestapo arrested several resistance workers who had unwittingly entered the house during the raid, as well as many family acquaintances who had been attending a prayer meeting in the living room. Altogether, the Gestapo arrested some 30 people in the ten Boom family home that day."

The number one thing that I see in scripture why people lied was to save lives.

a) Midwives

Exodus 1:19 And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? And the midwives said unto

Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

i) These midwives were brought in to the king for not killing the Hebrew babies that were being born at their watch. They lied to the king saying, "the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them."

□ This lying was to protect or save lives.

ii) On the other hand, it is possible that it is true that the Hebrew women were giving birth quickly before the midwives showed up.

iii) This verse shows that God blessed the Midwives for saving the lives of the Hebrew women while lying to the king.

b) Rahab

Joshua 2:1-9 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into a harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there. And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither tonight of the children of Israel to search out the country. And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I knew not whence they were: And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I know not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof. And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate. And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof; And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

- i) Simply put, Rahab lied to the king's men and the king, but she did that to save life—the lives of the men(spies).
- ii) She was later rewarded by saving her life and household when the children of Israel attacked and overthrew Jericho.
- iii) She is again written about as a woman of faith (Hebrews 11:31).
- iv) As much as we need to be truthful across the board, it is madness, to tell the truth, that would lead to murder. Some people under certain circumstance may give up their right to know the truth.

One other point you are okay to lie about is when your wife asks you if the dress, she is wearing makes her look fat. Saying the truth could cost you your life. This lie could save your life! Just kidding!! 😊

c) Michal

1 Samuel 19:11-19 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life tonight, tomorrow thou shalt be slain. So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped. And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth. And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick. And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him. And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster. And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee? So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth. And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah.

- i) During this time, Saul was constantly hunting for David's life. Michal tipped David off about the plan of Saul to kill him and let him through the window and he escaped.

- ii) When the messengers came to her looking for David, she lied saying he was sick. Had she revealed that he had left, these men would be on their way chasing him down.

d) Jonathan

1 Samuel 20:28 And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem: 29 And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me to be there: and now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table. 30 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness? 31 For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die. 32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done? 33 And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David.

- i) Jonathan was David's very close friend who sought out for his wellbeing. He also knew that his father hated David and had continual plans to kill him.
- ii) Here in the above verses Jonathan tells a lie to protect the life of David. This is acceptable.
- iii) I do not know about you, but I'm not telling the murderer where my wife and kids are hidden. I will lie to him. I will not tell him the truth to kill my family, neither should you. Telling him where they are hidden in the name of speaking the truth is stupid and nonsensical.

Lastly, many could cite the example of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) saying they lied and were killed. Although it is true, they lied, it was more of the motive and their heart issue. These lied unto the God (Holy Ghost), not man, and they were lying for selfish reasons not to preserve life by any stretch.