

# Living and Speaking Honestly

*The Test of Truthfulness James 5:12 Chris Mueller 4-24-22*

## **Introduction:**

**John 8:44** "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.

**Colossians 3:9** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices

**James 5:12** But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

## **#1 Determine to speak \_\_\_\_\_ 12a**

**12a** But above all, my brethren,

**James 1:26** If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

## **#2 Refuse to promise by swearing an \_\_\_\_\_ 12b**

**12b** do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath;

ONE:

TWO:

**Matthew 5:33–37** Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, "You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord." But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,... or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your statement be, "Yes, yes" or "No, no"; anything beyond these is of evil.

**Matthew 12:34** For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

## **#3 Choose to speak \_\_\_\_\_: simply, directly, and clearly 12c**

**12c** but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no,

**Matthew 5:37** anything beyond these is of evil

**1<sup>st</sup> Speak with \_\_\_\_\_, not complexity**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Speak with \_\_\_\_\_, not deception

**Proverbs 21:1** *The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

**Proverbs 3:5** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.*

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

**Colossian 3:9** *do not lie*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Speak with \_\_\_\_\_, not severity

**Ephesians 4:29** *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Speak with \_\_\_\_\_, not feelings

# #4 Speak knowing your words are under \_\_\_\_\_ 12d

12d so that you may not fall under judgment.

**Revelation 21:8** *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. 21:27* nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination **and lying**, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. **22:15** *Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and **practices lying***

**James 5:12** *But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.*

### TAKE HOME:

A. Be slow to make oaths; be fast to practice \_\_\_\_\_ talk

B. Get \_\_\_\_\_ against lying if you are a Christian who sometimes lies

**Ephesians 4:25** *laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another*

C. Pursue \_\_\_\_\_ if you are at ease with lying

### Questions for Growth in Christ

1. How do non-Christians use oaths? How do Christians use oaths improperly?
2. List all the reasons why Christ is opposed to Christians using oaths.
3. How can Christians learn to speak simply, directly, and clearly?
4. How do emotions hinder obedience to God's Word concerning our speech?
5. Why does God remind his readers about the coming Judgment?
6. What steps do you need to take this week to live and speak more honestly?



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