

TRUTH vs. LYING

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The essence that connects the body and soul of mankind is the mind and the memory. Memory is the truth, good or bad, of what we actually experienced and executed in our lives. It is a record and a history that cannot be erased or changed. It is embedded in us. The mind, on the other hand, is the calculating force of the present moment. It must make decisions for present and future actions. Once the mind executes its decision, it becomes memory. To tell a lie is to try to misrepresent the truth of that memory.

It is so much easier to tell the truth than it is to tell a lie. The mind does not have to constantly try to reinvent memory. A lie forces memory to retain both the truth and the lie. Memory is constantly being reinvented, not reinforced. This becomes stressful for they are irreconcilable. The stress becomes compounded when the lie is multi-layered. Reconciliation of the mind with memory brings peace.

Memory forms expectations as a guide for the mind to follow. Events of the moment may form temptations for the mind to deviate from memory. Temptation is a seduction to which man is likely to yield, however strong the spirit is, for the flesh is weak. The expectations of memory form the platform for the conscience based upon moral guidance. Temptations lead to the discovery of a man's true position and interest. It elicits what a person can do or will do [disposition] and not his abilities. One who has not been tempted has not been tested and knows little, for righteousness is proven or disproven by temptation. Prudence directs us to avoid temptation by being vigilant, for Satan appears more frequently as the agent of temptation in one's disorderly desires. Satan is known as the Father of Lies, as he tries to confuse memory and influence the mind.

The mind, many times, gets short circuited by emotion. Emotion can be a heavy power which subdues the process of the mind toward self-justification. We lie because we think we can get away with it. Emotion blanks out memory momentarily which brings about a sense of guilt to the mind. Emotion can be an irrational lie to the mind which causes a suffering. Recognition of memory by the mind reveals truth. Knowing truth is the only means to true freedom even before the last moments of our lives. The Lord, in His love for us, revealed this

to us on the cross in His crucifixion between two thieves. The truth will make you free.

One of the thieves crucified with Jesus said, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." But the other thief rebuked him saying, "Do you not fear God since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? We receive a just reward for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." He then said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." Jesus responded, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." [Luke 23" 39-43] At the last minute the one thief reconciled his mind and memory to the truth. He still paid the price for his wrong deeds in this world but his recognition of the truth brought him into God's kingdom. The other thief did not recognize the truth and only wanted to avoid responsibility and punishment for his crimes, a denial of truth. [He continued to live a lie.] He may have even resented Jesus for not fulfilling his request. How many times do we do the same thing? "For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life, for my sake, he will save it." [Luke 9: 24] Truth will always conquer a lie, so why try? Otherwise you will never live in peace!

When I was a young child during the great depression years, my mother always gave me ten cents to put in the collection basket during the children's Sunday Mass. It was a seven block walk to church and I passed two candy stores. At one of the stores there was a big sale on chewing gum for only five cents. I thought who would know? So I bought the five cent package of gum and put the other nickel in the collection basket. On the way home I tried to figure out how to explain the gum to my mother; so I stuffed it all in my mouth. Arriving home mom asked me where I got all the gum I was chewing. With a mouth full of gum I could barely get it out – "A friend gave it to me." Mom looked at me and said, "You're lying!" I finally admitted it and asked her how she knew. She said, "GOD told me." I got mad at God because he squealed on me. But after a few days I forgave God because I realized I had a special mother who was able to speak with Him. No other kid in the neighborhood had a mother who spoke with God. That made her and me special. You can't depend on a lie to be a special person!