

**TELLING THE TRUTH SHOULD BE IN OUR DNA**

*“Holiness is not a condition into which we drift.” –John Stott*

**TRUTH TELLING**

DESIRE	to live an authentically truthful life
DEFINITION	Truth telling involves speaking in a way that does not exaggerate, minimize, deny, rationalize or manage the truth.
SCRIPTURE	<p>“Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” (Matthew 5:37).</p> <p>“Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body...</p> <p>Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.” (James 3:5-6, 10).</p> <p>“Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment... The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.” (Proverbs 12:19, 22).</p>
PRACTICE INCLUDES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• refusing to spin events and experiences in order to impress others.</li><li>• not exaggerating.</li><li>• not cheating on tests, taxes, insurance forms, etc.</li><li>• keeping promises and following through.</li><li>• repenting, and informing others of when you have lied to them.</li><li>• speaking the truth in love</li><li>• refusing to flatter or dissemble</li><li>• saying what you mean and meaning</li></ul>

This resource has been provided free of charge by the freewill support of the partners of Mentoring Men for the Master, Int'l. If you would like more information, please visit us at [www.mentoringmen.org](http://www.mentoringmen.org). We hope you enjoy this resource.

	<p>what you say</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• refusing to slander another</li><li>• refusing to gossip or pass on gossip and rumor.</li></ul>
GOD-GIVEN FRUIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• having integrity and being honest.</li><li>• being freed from rationalization, denial and blame</li><li>• being aware of when and how you manipulate the truth.</li><li>• being sensitive to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit in your conscience when you lie or stretch the truth</li><li>• telling the truth even when it hurts</li><li>• not taking your bearings on the truth from what the culture finds acceptable.<sup>1</sup></li></ul>
REFLECTION QUESTIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Think back over the past week – Have you stretched the truth? Or taken from the truth?</li><li>2. Can you honestly say that you:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Have not exaggerated during the last week?</li><li>b. Nor gossiped?</li><li>c. Nor rationalized?</li></ol></li><li>3. When has it cost you to be honest?</li><li>4. How has someone’s honesty affected you?</li><li>5. How has someone’s dishonesty affected you?</li><li>6. When is it hardest for you to tell the truth?</li><li>7. Would you consider writing a prayer of confession in your journal concerning your dishonesty?</li><li>8. What sort of thoughts does God have about you – consult Psalm 139?</li><li>9. Have you been telling at least little white lies in the past and did not know it until you took this test?</li></ol>

<sup>1</sup> Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, Spiritual Disciplines Handbook, Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2005, p. 200

This resource has been provided free of charge by the freewill support of the partners of Mentoring Men for the Master, Int'l. If you would like more information, please visit us at [www.mentoringmen.org](http://www.mentoringmen.org). We hope you enjoy this resource.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>10. Do you believe there is a relationship between your honesty and your power in preaching the gospel?</li><li>11. Did you ever tell an illustration as if it were your experience when it was someone else's?</li><li>12. Did you ever preach someone else's sermon and not give him credit?</li><li>13. If you use ideas or parts of another man's sermon how should you handle this?</li></ol>
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------