

October 2, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

How Honest are You?

"Honesty always telling the
truth and living
out of the truth?"

What is the
Truth?

Why so many Lies?

Honestly Honesty is up to you

SO MANY LIES...

Telling the Truth always....

Do you tell the truth, always tell the truth? That is a tough question for some people because of the word always. Always defines character and character defines who we are when we know that we won't get caught. Character has also been defined like this. It is the person you are when you know that no one is looking. Which is true, but I think there is more truth in the statement it is who we are when we know we will not get caught. What do people lie about? Well that is easy everything, people lie about everything! But what about you? What do you lie about? After you answer that question the next thing to process is why do you lie about that? Here are the the top 10 Reasons people lie:

1. To please people
2. To Save Your Own Face
3. To Avoid Helping Someone
4. To Avoid Long Conversations
5. To Boast (Look Good)
6. To Get Benefits
7. To Get out of trouble
8. To fit in
9. To prove a point
10. To change the mind of another person.

Do any of these sound familiar to you? Have you lied today? Was the lie filling in one of the points? Telling the truth is well lets be honest one of the easiest things to do. Or is

it? The Bible says this about lying.

Proverbs 12:22 The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.

God really, really has a problem with lies. So what is it about lies or lying that attracts us to lie? I think when you look to the very root of a lie, it has a lot to do with how we feel about ourselves. It also has a lot to say about our relationship with God. We lie to change things or cover up things that we don't like about ourselves. So the root is how do we see ourselves. How do you see yourself? Think about everything that you do, why do you do those things? What drives you to do them? It sounds complicated but really it is all rooted in how do you feel about yourself. If you were to define yourself what would you say about you? Would you lie in your definition, or could you define yourself with only the truth. Lying is a problem and if you have ever been lied to then you know first hand that it is not a good thing. So then why do we do it, and why do others do it. There is the top 10 list, but I think that it is a problem with how well do we like ourselves and how well do we like others for who they are. God delights in men who are truthful! God delights in people who know who they are happy with who they are. These people don't need to lie.

**GOOD
DECISIONS**



Lies, they are everywhere!

What can be done? How we get the lies to stop? It starts with each one of us saying we will be a people who will always tell the truth no matter what. We have to be honest with others, and we have to be honest with ourselves. But more importantly we have to be honest with God and truthful with Him. When we are honest with Him in all things then we will find that we like the person that we are and we are always growing into a better person. When that happens, well we become comfortable with who we are and well there really is no reason to lie about anything.

Lets be Honest God makes us Beautiful

"Beautiful Things " by Gungor

"Beautiful Things"

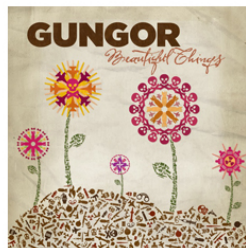
All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change at all
All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground at all

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found in You

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

You make me new, You are making me new
You make me new, You are making me new



This song is featured on
Beautiful Things album
by
Gungor

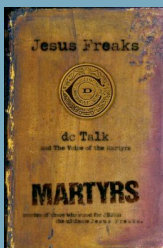
Real Life Heroes

"Let Christ Help You"

Zenobius and Zenobia Aegaea, Cilicia
(near Kalamaki--Aydihi, Turkey)
285AD

"I love Jesus Christ more than all the riches and honor of this world. Death and the torments with which you threaten me, I do not consider a disadvantage, but my greatest gain." Having said that, Zenobius, the Bishop of the Church of Aegaea, looked steadily at Lysias, the Roman proconsul. Lysias had offered Zenobius great wealth, honor, and position if he would follow the command of the Emperor and serve the Roman gods, but threatened him with torture if he did not. On a tour through the provinces of Cilicia, Lysias had been holding criminal court against Christians in town after town. He had been in Aegaea only a short time, but had already tortured five Christians to death. Now he looked forward to tormenting the bishop himself. "Put him on the rack!" the proconsul ordered. "We will see how much pain he can stand." While the executioners were busy with Zenobius, his sister Zenobia, having heard what was happening, came running in. She cried with a loud voice, "You tyrant! What evil thing has my brother done, that you torture him like this?" She too was seized by the servants, stripped naked, stretched out, and roasted beside her brother on a red-hot iron bed. The tyrant mocking the martyrs said, "Now let Christ come and help you, seeing you suffer these torments for Him." Zenobius replied: "See, He is already with us, and cools, with His heavenly dew, the flames of fire on our bodies; though you, surrounded as you are with the thick darkness of wickedness, cannot see it." That made Lysias furious. "Throw them into boiling pots of water!" he hollered. Miraculously, the boiling water did not kill the two believers, and they continued to praise the Lord Jesus. Lysias was almost beside himself. None of the other Christians had survived his torments like these two had. "Get them out of my sight!" "What shall we do to them next?" the executioners asked. At his wits end, Lysias ordered a form of death that was sure to work but seldom used on Christians because it was quick and painless: "Take them out of the city and behead them." Their bodies were buried in a cave near the place where they were executed.

Like other martyrs before and after them, Zenobius and Zenobia experienced the reality of God's presence. The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort,.. We share in the terrible sufferings of Christ, but also in the wonderful comfort he gives. Paul the Apostle Martyred In Rome, 65 AD (2 CORINTHIANS 1:3,5 CEV)



Featured Story
from the book
Jesus Freaks dc
Talk and the
voice of the
Martyrs

HONESTY

EXTREME APPLICATION

Can you think of a time where it would have been easier to lie than tell the truth? I am sure that you can. It is in these moments where character is developed. Sometimes it is easier to lie, and to cover up lie after lie. When we tell the truth even if it gets us busted it is the right thing to do. That's extreme, that is who we are, we are called to be extreme. Be extreme and always tell the truth. Be extreme and live in honesty.

Think About it (Always Telling the Truth)

Really, always telling the truth, that is a tall order. If you want to have the character that causes you to be a person who can change the world then you have to always tell the truth. Wow, okay so what about the way you think about people? Will you just go up and tell them what you are thinking about them? Or will be fake and say Hey how's it going? What is the truth? That is a hard one you might be saying. If we always tell the truth, you might say that we might hurt more people than if we just lied. This could be true, but Proverbs 12:22 is there, **The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.** So that would mean that God does not want us to lie even if it keeps us from hurting people. Wow that might seem harsh, and it might get you into some really tough spots if you went around telling everyone what you really think of them instead of lying to them. If being honest makes us better people what are we to do? Well lets see what God wants us to do. Lets see there is the thing called the greatest commandment that can give us some direction. **Matt. 22:36-39 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.** 'Love your neighbor as yourself. Okay everyone is our neighbor, and we are to treat everyone the way that we would want to be treated. So lets look at it that way. Be Honest always, and if you have bad thoughts and bad feelings towards someone, we are to rise above those feelings and we are to have love for them. Even if they did us wrong we should only have good things to say about them. To live in the tension of being honest all the time we are to change, and we are to be honest with ourselves and with everyone else. To do that we have to change how we see ourselves, which will change how we see others. That's the tension in



Read Galatians 6:7-9

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

DIE IN

1. Who would you consider to be the most honest? Why?

Check as many as you want.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the President of the United States | <input type="checkbox"/> your best friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a door-to-door salesman | <input type="checkbox"/> a teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a minister | <input type="checkbox"/> a music star |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a celebrity in a TV commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> a police officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> your parents | <input type="checkbox"/> your boyfriend or girlfriend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a school counselor | <input type="checkbox"/> you |

2. What is a white lie?

3. Most would say the following are dishonest statements. Rate them from most dishonest (1) to the least (10) to the most dishonest.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ___ Lying to parents so you can go out. | ___ Shoplifting a gift for someone. |
| ___ Cheating on a test. | ___ Giving a fake excuse to a teacher. |
| ___ Keeping the money when a cashier gives you too much change. | ___ Borrowing something and not returning it. |
| ___ Spreading a rumor when it's not true. | ___ Protecting a friend by lying. |
| ___ Making illegal copies of a CD or video tape | ___ Giving false info about yourself on Social Media, like Face Book. |

4. Natalie lied to her parents about where she spent the afternoon. She knew that if she told her parents the truth, they would be disappointed and angry. Her parents believed her and nothing more was said

What do you think of Natalie's actions?

What would you do if you were Natalie?

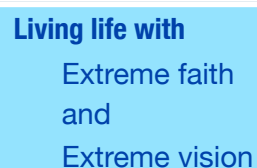
5. Read the following Bible verses and decide if each one is an example of honesty or dishonesty.

Genesis 12:10-13 1
 Samuel 12:1-5
 Amos 8:4-5

Luke 19:5-8
 Acts 5:1-2 2
 Corinthians 8:19-21

UNDERSTANDING
WISDOM

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. The top-left and bottom-right corners of the paper are rounded. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

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