

7-Avoid the Greatest of Faults

As I have examined myself I have discovered that I am capable of living in denial. In fact I'm good at it! I have been forced to see faults that I passed off for years under excuses like "That's no big deal" or "Everyone does it, so what". Our nature is to avoid the uncomfortable. We want to be comfortable. Living with a half truth is comfortable. Having to face the cold hard truth is uncomfortable!

I took years of sitting under the teaching of strong biblically based men to get me to see the truth---we all deceive ourselves. I now agree with Thomas Carlyle's thinking-*"The greatest of faults is to be conscious of none."* I now believe that truth is truth and a lie is a lie. There is no middle ground. When you are sworn in for testimony in court you agree to tell the truth, the whole truth! There is no wiggle room in a court of law so why do we believe there is wiggle room in our walk? The answer is simple---for years "the devil made me do it". Not literally but the devil does tell you it's okay to stretch the truth. It's okay to tell "little white lies".

The new insight I gained was that the devil is the father of lies. "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." **John 8:44**. For those of you who are non-spiritual this verse may seem harsh. Who am I to declare that the devil is the father of lies? Well, the secular world often portrays the devil as a creature holding a pitchfork. The mascot of our hometown university is the Sun Devils and their logo is a pitchfork. Hardly the symbol of a fine, upstanding man of character! I believe we can all agree that at some point in our life we stretched the truth to wiggle out of trouble.

Now that I can acknowledge that I have been deceived in the past, what will I do the next time I face deception? I have been given the gift of discernment so that I can separate truth from the devil's lies. I must hone my spiritual gifts so they can serve me well! I must seek wise counsel before acting. I must store in my heart the truth of who I am- the adopted son of

the Creator of the universe. I must know the ploys the devil uses. I must ask Jesus for a hedge of protection! I must allow the transformation of my mind. I must allow the Holy Spirit access and listen when He speaks.

None of these "musts" will happen until you surrender yourself to your Creator. As long as you play the role of God in your life you are vulnerable to buying the lies of the Devil. "The truth will set you free" is more than just a saying! Truth shines light on the lies and exposes them. Darkness cannot win over light. The decision is yours---will you continue to be unaware of your faults or will you own them, then seek and accept forgiveness. The truth will set you free to enjoy all the joy and peace your Creator has waiting for you. Make the decision to avoid the greatest of faults and choose truth.

Verse:

John 8:32 "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Personal Reflection: What lies have you bought into? Are you ready to bring them to the cross? Can you accept Jesus' forgiveness? Can you allow the Holy Spirit access to transform your mind and heart?

Group Discussion:

How can you encourage one another to bring the Devil's lies into the light?

Share the lies that have been exposed in your lives.