

The Truth About Lies...

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Updated: December 30, 2006

www.christian-ramblings.net



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Introduction

What is a lie? A lie by definition is the intentional misrepresentation of reality. In contrast, truth is the reality of the situation with the facts presented in context.

Lies are not a natural occurring phenomenon. You can't grow a lie in a field and a lie must be manufactured and nurtured. Lies are thoughts and therefore they are manufactured in your mind. When one looks at a mountain and says, "Look, a mountain!" The mountain is ample evidence of the truth to the statement. The next person that comes by and says, "That is a really big cat!" Obviously something has gone wrong to make the second person believe a lie that the mountain is a cat. So how does one get to a point where they believe a mountain is a cat?

The process of lying is not a discreet process where you lie for ten seconds and then you tell the truth for the rest of the day. Some chemicals when mixed together will resist the mixing process. In order to mix oil and water for a salad dressing you must vigorously shake the container. In contrast, lies mix well with everything, they fold right in and fill in the gaps because imagination can go anywhere and be anything to the creator of the lie. The lie looks as smooth as glass in the eyes of the beholder.

Rewiring the System

We are built of physical and spiritual components which were integrated together by God. These components are like the plumbing and electrical systems within a house and serve the house to make it function. Just as water drives our dishwasher, shower, waste removal and electricity drives the motors that do various things, our spirit is wired in a certain way by God. What if the occupant of a house decided to change the plumbing and electrical layout without the necessary skills in remodeling, would the house operate as expected? The answer is probably not, so lets break down the components of a lie and how it affects the house in its entirety.

The first component of a lie is perception. Think of yourself as a point in space and close your eyes and see what you perceive. You are a set of systems receiving input from various sources both physical and spiritual. These inputs into your body and spirit conform to God's design. What if your perception of these inputs were corrupted? While driving a car not many people freak out that their eyeballs are malfunctioning by showing incorrect images to the brain. The brain relies on the assumption that the eyeballs are showing it a true reality. What if we could modify your sensory input to receive images from a different source that does not reflect reality? Your behavior would change according to what you saw.

The second component of a lie are desires of the heart and are the ammo of lies. What makes lies so seductive is that the ammo is not directed at other individuals, but it is directed at you the creator of the lie. Who can say "no" to their own desires? It is what you want, so that is what you get. When faced with a lie from an external source, if the desires of your heart match the profile of the lie that is presented to you, you will believe it as truth.

This definition of a lie can be seen in the following scripture.

Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.
(Proverbs 21:2)

When you combine perception with your desires, it becomes an explosive combination. Let us consider the fall of Satan. Before Satan was Satan, he was called Lucifer and he was perfect in all his ways. The question is how can a perfect being corrupt himself? If you are perfect, you would not consider corrupting yourself as a valid path. If you did, you would not be perfect in your ways. It stands to reason then that there were a set of circumstances which led Lucifer to his down fall.

In the book of Isaiah it is written.

But you said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north." (Isaiah 14:13)

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From this scripture we see a twisted desire of Satan to be like God. If we take this one step back before Satan fell and look at it in the purity of Lucifer, then this scripture could be rewritten where Lucifer is seeking to be like God the Father in innocence. One thing we know about God is that His wisdom and understanding are infinite, therefore a finite being seeking to be like God will not find a path on their own. When a path was not found, Lucifer created his own path to be like God. In essence, he created a short cut to be like God. What he did not realize was the consequences of what he was about to do (because of a lack of infinite wisdom and understanding).

In order for Lucifer to obtain his goal to be like God, he invented the lie. A lie as stated previously involves two components--perception and desire. Lucifer rewired his spirit to connect his desires to his perception so that his perception would see whatever he desired thus allowing him to achieve his goal to be like God (in his own mind).

In America and around the world there are building codes that govern what you can and cannot build. For example, in most locals there is a requirement that a grounding wire be provided to shunt away electricity in case of short circuit. If you bypass the grounding wire, you risk killing yourself by electrocution. Connecting the output of your desires to the input of your perception is just like bypassing the grounding wire. In the analogy of the eyes and the brain, the brain expects the eyes to report what it sees and the brain has a fundamental assumption that the eyes are reporting the truth. Since the perception of reality comes from the desires of the heart, the brain believes that this is reality. The problem is that the desire though good in intention, may not reflect reality.

So when Lucifer rewired his spirit to connect his desire to be like God to his perception so that he could create a short cut, he started a vicious cycle where the desire became the perception which in turn affected his desires which were then fed back into his perception. Suddenly his moral compass had no true north to provide him direction to where he was headed. His sense of right and wrong was now based on his own interpretation which were influenced by his desires.

The reason Lucifer rewired his spirit was to become like God as a child looks up to his father in a loving way. The consequences of his action was that he became the enemy of God because he corrupted his sense of right and wrong. Consider it from Lucifer's point of view just after he invents the lie and tries it out on himself. He now sees a way to fulfill his own desire to be like God. So he sees himself standing next to God and being equal to God in wisdom, power, and understanding. So now Lucifer believes he has the wisdom and power of God at his disposal and if you have the wisdom and power of God, then you can do things which God does, which is anything.

"For nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

At this point, no offense has been committed. Having a fantasy about being like someone is not wrong, but acting upon that fantasy as if it were the truth is wrong. This is doubled edged sword were Lucifer felt in his own mind he was doing the right thing since he did not have the constraints of truth to act as anchors since truth was now based on his own desires.

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Think of it like sitting at your desk and taking a mental break and slipping into a daydream. You imagine yourself as the hero of some situation or saving the day with some heroic feat with good intentions, then one of your coworkers comes by and taps you on the shoulder and says, "How are you doing?" The coworker now unknowingly becomes entangled into your fantasy without his knowledge which sets up a potential conflict because he does not conform to your expectations (desires), so you punch him out with all your might because you believed he was the enemy in your fantasy which you considered your reality. So you operate on a fundamental belief that you are centered on the truth, but the problem is that the you have lost cohesion with your anchor points and you are floating aimlessly. So anything said to you is relative to your own context. When you substitute a "desire" in the place of truth, the lie appears to you as reasonable. Since it is reasonable to you, you make a judgement and act upon it. This is how conflict arises out of pride.

Balancing the Scales

With no balancing force any person will become a devil when infected with the lie mechanism of connecting the desires to the perception. Such a being is like a bomb that implodes and it only takes a moment for the pride-sin cycle to be complete.

Jesus says we are all full pride.

Jesus said...No one is good except God alone. (Luke 18:19)

Without the grace of God, we quickly degenerate into murderous evil beings. Mankind is filled with many examples of people who have imploded under there own lies. The grace of God is the balancing force that allows men and women to make informed decisions while being infected with pride.

So what exactly is the grace of God and how do we interact with it? The grace of God is not a commodity item that you purchase from a store on earth, it is love made manifest which is the Spirit of God Himself.

Now we need to define some terms.

- lie = A falsehood born out of connecting your desires to your perceptions.
- sin as verb = The act of acting upon a lie.
- sin as a noun = The result of acting upon lies.
- pride = A set of lies.

With these terms we can define the differences between love and pride. In general, love "gives" and pride "takes." Love is based on truth, but pride is based on desires. We associate love with selfless acts of kindness, therefore love will give when a need is presented, but pride will take no matter the circumstances to satisfy its own desires. The grace of God is the selfless love of God given freely and without price. It is given to the godly and ungodly man the same.

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For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; (1 Peter 3:18)

The grace of God is given to the evil man in order for them to be able to make a choice between loving his own lies or the truth. This is why when you look at men who reject God and His ways and they are not acting like murderous devils. For the evil man would say, "I am not out robbing banks or killing people and I don't believe in God!" What he doesn't realize is that God is suppressing his pride in order to clear his head so that he can make a choice that is clearly his own. The deadliest mistake a person can make is to look at his own behavior and claim it is good while ignoring the fact that God is the one who is keeping them within the realm of normal behavior.

One of the biggest problems that we humans face when trying to follow God is we act as if we accomplished something on our own. This may not be obvious on the surface, but underneath we choose to take credit for what the grace of God has accomplished. Consider the following story that Jesus told.

And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:9-14)

The two men Jesus described are examples of two of the extremes where the Pharisee represents contemptuous pride and the tax collector a man who is recognizing his pride. Both had pride, but it is how they responded to their pride that is the key difference. Consider that the Pharisee's pride was no better or worse than the tax collector's pride. The lie the Pharisee walked in is that he didn't have pride and was free to judge others because of his perceived lack of pride. The tax collector seeing his pride responded to the truth and the grace of God.

Manifestations

Pride comes in many colors. This means pride has can manifest in many different ways. The manifestations of pride can range from innocuous small talk to cold blooded murder. Pride infects our lives like a garden overrun by the most voracious weeds. Some of the weeds are inconsequential in their affect and some choke the life out of the good plants.

The following manifestations of a lies are listed from the benign to the darkest. There are many different manifestations of a lie that could be formulated, so this list of lies is meant to give you a taste and scale to judge yourself against. It meant to show the increasing darkness as the intent to lie increases.

Any of the manifestations listed below can be made worse by applying more weight than is necessary through the emotional baggage that is carried in to the situation. For example, in a heated argument where pride is involved, emotion can multiply the intensity and can inflate an argument considerably.

The Little White Lie

You go to a super market and you see a friend in the meat section and you go up to him and have some small talk. In the midst of this conversation you are talking about the weather, sports, and local politics and then your friend asks you about your family. Suddenly you say, "They are fine" when in fact there are problems. With one statement pride has reared its ugly head and you told a lie. You told the lie to avoid personal discomfort or causing discomfort of the other person. This kind of pride when manifest does not cause earth shattering consequences and this is what society deems a little white lie. After the conversation is over you both go your separate ways and that is that.

The problem with the little white lie is that it has a cumulative effect. You believed it was OK to tell the lie, so that feeds back into your desires and corrupts them further. Like a snowball rolling down a snow laden mountain side gathers snow unto itself, the little white lie could be a trigger for an avalanche of lies in your life. It is best to avoid the little white lie.

Using Worry as a Teddy Bear

Holding on to projected fears without evidence of the event happening implies within yourself that you have done something positive. Worry makes you feel justified that you are responding to a situation. In your own eyes, you are released from your emotional responsibilities of actually doing something constructive since you have paid a penance by suffering under your own worry. This gives you an emotional payoff similar to a teddy bear to a small child.

The Lie by Omission

Sometimes saying nothing can be a lie. For example, not saying a simple “thank you” for something you receive can be a lie since it may reveal ingratitude and ingratitude comes out of the lie that you are entitled and have no need to be thankful. Lying by omission can also have very serious consequences. For example, lying to the police by not telling the “whole” truth can land you in jail.

The Leave Me Alone Lie

Let’s say you are in a heated conversation with someone and they are pressing you for a response. After a while you become irritated with the other person’s argument and you desire to end the discussion. So you decide to tell them what they want to hear and lie to them.

With this kind of lie your intension to lie has become an overt decision. You intentionally want to deceive the person so that they will shut up and leave you alone. The consequences of this lie are like unto the “little white lie” in that the consequences are fairly benign in the immediate time frame. Later on the consequences of this kind of lie can come back to bite you when you are pressed again for the answer which you gave as a lie previously. At that point you have to live the lie or confess that you lied. It is easy to become tangled in a web of lies in order to avoid being found out.

Lies Masquerading as the Truth

When a lie is taken up by the number of people who have repeated it common to assume that it must be true since you have no way of denying the lie. This is how a lie may appear to be the masquerading as truth. You can never turn a lie into truth by increasing the number of people who repeat it or forming a context around the lie to make it appear true. Peer pressure is breeding ground of lies.

The Complainer

Complaining comes from the fruit of lying. If you are well adjusted in God, abounding in wisdom and the Spirit of God, you will not be a complainer. It does not mean you suffer set backs or loss, but you see the big picture in that God has your future in His hand and all present day sufferings will one day end and you will spend eternity in His glory and love; Therefore you are patient as God is patient. The complainer on the other hand, looks at his immediate situation and makes known to all who will listen the complaint thus spreading bitterness. So when you complain to God about your circumstances, you are sending God a message of bitterness. The lie you rely on to justify complaining is that God is unaware of your circumstances. In essence, you are accuse God of being negligent in His love towards you. Some people mistakenly say that it is OK to direct your complaints to God since He can take it because of His infinite strength and wisdom. It is true that He does have infinite strength and wisdom, but the sting of the complaint to God is in no way diminished by His strength. It hurts God and you should not subject Him to unjust willful jabs. Having said that, there is a place for

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complaint that is justified if you have been truly wronged. There is a place in God for delivering justice. It is very fine line when talking to God about your circumstances turns into complaining and that point of cross over is when you put your desires first. It is best to avoid complaining when talking to God since your own pride has corrupted your desires. God is well aware of your circumstances.

Playing the Victim

Playing the victim is a very subtle form of lying. The basic premiss is when you perceive an offense committed against yourself and instead of dealing with the situation in a mature manner you crawl into a corner and whine about how the other person has hurt you. You exalt yourself in complaining that you have been hurt by trying to induce guilt in the other person. It is like you are pointing at the other person and accusing them of causing you of feeling what you are feeling, thus avoiding personal responsibility for the feelings you have chosen to feel. No thing, person, or circumstance can cause you to have feelings within your spirit. If it were possible that an outside influence could force you to choose a path, then free will would be a myth. You can also play the victim within yourself (no second party required) when you want justify the choices you made.

The Lie to Win an Argument

Let's say you are in a heated argument and you have decided not to give up at any cost. Out of the desire to be right, comes a lie to prove to the other person that you are right. Since the other person can't deny your lie you win the argument. The main point of a lie of this nature is that you have crossed the line where you are purposefully using a lie to gain your desires. This type of spiritual darkness is a dangerous path to follow.

Spreading Gossip

Spreading gossip is a very dangerous form of lying. To spread gossip is to make unfounded judgments of another person. It is the equivalent of taking a sword and stabbing someone in the back without their knowledge. Once you let the lie out of your mouth about someone else, it spreads easily and quickly since the person hearing the gossip will be inclined to spread it because they are sitting there listening to you in the first place! The consequences of such lies can be devastating.

Mean Spirited Lie

The mean spirited lie is where you intentionally lie to hurt a person. You use the lie itself as the weapon and the intention is to cause harm to another. It is like throwing daggers at your best friend for no cause. Using a lie as a weapon will cause God's anger to be kindled against you. Not only are you aware that you are lying, but you are taking it a step further and you are trying to commit spiritual murder with the lie. You may say that this is an extreme view point to make it the equivalent of murder, but if we were to give power and authority to the underlying desire underneath the mean spirited lie and allow it to play out, the other person would be dead. When God disciplines us, it causes us pain to motivate us to do the right thing in the future. If you are attacking an enemy you

are also causing pain, but your intention is to do him bodily harm and you do not have his future best interests as your priority. Discipline from God is means to bear good fruit down the road whereas the fruit of the mean spirited lie is destruction.

Bad Fruit

No good thing can come from pride. For if something good could come from pride then pride would be an attribute that God himself would manifest and we know that there was no pride in Jesus who is the direct reflection of God. If God will have no part in lying, then darkness is the only fruit that can come from lying. Examine the end result of lying on the day of judgement.

But 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. (Revelation 21:8)

Look at this scripture closely since it mentions that "all liars" shall have their part in the lake of fire. Now examine the path laid out by Jesus as a pattern that God is using for examining us.

Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." And He began telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. "And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?' "And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.'" (Luke 13:1-9)

God is patient and God is humble. He will wait for you to bear fruit in your life. He will give you every opportunity to follow the flow of the Spirit of God in order to produce fruit. Also consider that producing no fruit is the equivalent of producing bad fruit. The consequences of having bad fruit before God is horrifying. Any fruit that cannot be consumed by God must be thrown away.

So what are the fruits of our lives? When we look at a fruit tree, we see a fruit that is intended to become the seed for another fruit tree. It is structured to replicate itself into a new fruit tree. It also has the benefits of producing beauty, food, and useful products. So do we see the same things in us?

Lies also have fruits that can be observed.

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)

This list is certainly incomplete as to pertaining to the manifestations of pride, but this gives us a taste of the fruits of pride. The key word in this passage is the word "practice." To practice something means you are endorsing the thing and consider it a worthy thing to achieve since you repeatedly attempt to perform the action.

When it comes to making choices between truth and lies about spiritual matters, you need to test everything for validity. You need to make it a lifestyle and to practice choosing the truth.

Making Choices

Truth is to pride is like a sharp needle is to a balloon. Pride seeks to justify itself in order to not look foolish and therefore pride's response is create another lie to cover the first lie. One lie leads to another lie which leads to a vicious cycle of perpetual lying. If you delve deep enough into the cycle of lying, you will lose all perspective of truth. At that point, even when truth is presented to you, you will reject it.

Learn the lesson of king Nebuchadnezzar from the book of Daniel chapter 4.

Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language that live in all the earth: "May your peace abound! It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me. How great are His signs And how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom And His dominion is from generation to generation."

"I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace. I saw a dream and it made me fearful; and these fantasies as I lay on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. So I gave orders to bring into my presence all the wise men of Babylon, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the conjurers, the Chadians and the diviners came in and I related the dream to them, but they could not make its interpretation known to me. But finally Daniel came in before me, whose name is Belteshazzar according to the name of my god, and in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and I related the dream to him, saying, 'O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, since I know that a spirit of the holy gods is in you and no mystery baffles you, tell me the visions of my dream which I have seen, along with its interpretation. 'Now these were the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great. The tree grew large and became strong and its height reached to the sky,

and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all the beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches, and all living creatures fed themselves from it. I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven. He shouted out and spoke as follows: "Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, Strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit; Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. Yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it In the new grass of the field; And let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, And let him share with the beasts in the grass of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let a beast's mind be given to him, and let seven periods of time pass over him. This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers and the decision is a command of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men." This is the dream which I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell me its interpretation, inasmuch as none of the wise men of my kingdom is able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you."

"Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him the king responded and said, 'Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you' Belteshazzar replied, 'My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries! The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and was visible to all the earth and whose foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt and in whose branches the birds of the sky lodged--it is you, O king; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky and your dominion to the end of the earth. In that the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, "Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field, and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him," this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes. And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules. Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity."

All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. The king reflected and said, "Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?" While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field you will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes." Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws. "But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?' At that time my reason returned to me and my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride." (Daniel 4)

God gave Nebuchadnezzar a chance to humble himself, but he choose not to obey. He paid a heavy price, but in the end God left a blessing of humility. Every man is infected with pride and it is not something you can escape. Pride does not occur occasionally in one's life, but it manifests continually and is continually spreading through out your spirit and body. It is when we make the choice to stop listening, God must resort to discipline.

He who neglects discipline despises himself, but he who listens to reproof acquires understanding. (Proverbs 15:32)

Listen to God and you will live.

Factory of Pride

So, what do we have? We are all infected with pride and it is twisting our behaviors and causing us to sin. We all are like little pride factories running non-stop producing all sorts of disgusting and hurtful things. Even being born again in the Spirit of God (being saved), did not close the door to the pride factory while we walk on earth. What has changed is that we have hope and the grace of God to help us. So it is inevitable that you are going to walk in pride and possibly sin. There is no getting around that fact, so it is your responsibility before God to make your best effort to embrace the truth with all

your strength knowing that you will make a mess of things down the road. God does condemn a man to the lake of fire for sinning, but for choosing the life style of sinning over the life style of following the truth. It is not the mess you make, but the trail you follow that determines your fate.

The Weapons of War

In the battle against pride, you have four basic weapons at your disposal which include repentance, humility, strength of character, and truth. Each of these weapons serves a different purpose and are used at different times. Lets define each of these tools.

Repentance

Repentance is what you do when you are guilty of sin. To repent is to turn around and go the right way. Let's say you are having sex outside of marriage. To repent in this situation would mean you stop having sex outside of marriage. Repentance is to stop doing what you know to be wrong. There are couple of components to repentance which include the verbal acknowledgment and the actual turning around and doing the right thing. The essential core of repentance is the "action" part of repentance and you stop doing the wrong thing. The verbal part of repentance has two parts that includes the words you say and the sincerity of your heart. When you verbally repent, God is most concerned with the sincerity of your heart. The words you use are also important because verbal repentance is basically a confession to God of what you did wrong. Are you dancing around the issue at hand with your words trying to make it not look as bad as it is? You can never pull a "fast one" on God because God sees the absolute truth of the situation and His intention is to bring you to the realization of what you did.

Humility

Humility existed long before pride came into being. Humility is a quality of God and it is the essence of love. Humility has many forms of expression. In the context of dealing with pride, humility is to submit yourself to God's authority. Consider what would of happened if Pharaoh submitted to God when Moses came to him.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. (Exodus 10:3)

Would Pharaoh have saved himself a lot of trouble? In this micro-context, the answer would be yes. Pharaoh had a free will and he chose the path of pride and God used his pride to multiply His signs among them. If we speculate proposing that Pharaoh humbled himself the first time Moses came to him and let the Hebrews go, then Egypt would of not been destroyed by the ten plagues. You also have free will and can choose to humble yourself before God. Humbling yourself is a preventative measure to cut pride off before it has a chance to grow.

Strength of Character

Strength of character is the grace of God made manifest in your spirit as the ability to resist temptation. Sometimes temptation is just placed in your path and you can't avoid it because the devil has asked God for permission to tempt you. Strength of character is God's answer to those situations.

Just as muscles are used by the body to move itself in its environment, spiritual strength of character is the ability to say "no" to sin and move oneself away from the temptation. In essence it is the strength to deny your own desires when they are wrong. It is the ability to enforce a choice that is made and choose a choice that is right. Such strength of character is a gift from God and is not something you can pick up on your own. When you make a choice of which God approves, God lends His strength to enforce the choice. This strength cannot come from you because your pride has corrupted your desires, therefore God gives of Himself.

Truth

Jesus said...

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (John 8:31-32)

This may seem like an obvious statement that the truth will set you free from lies, but it has subtle spiritual consequences when it is embraced or ignored. Jesus also stated...

But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (John 10:26-27)

If you are one of Jesus' sheep, when you hear the truth you will naturally flow to it. The flip side is also true in that if you are not one of His sheep, you will reject truth. Embracing truth will set you free from lies because the grace of God embraces the truth and this is the witness God provides that the truth is the truth.

In your life you will embrace lies even if you are one of God's sheep because you are infected with pride. So this leaves us in a quandary of embracing lies while seeking the truth. If the Spirit of God dwells within you, truth will drive you to repentance and repentance will lead you to humility which in turn creates strength of character.