

# THE LIE

John 8:44



Jn. 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **he is a liar, and the father of it.**

### Introduction

When Satan rebelled against the Creator, he exalted himself over God (Isa. 14:12-14)

Isa. 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For **thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend** into heaven, **I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 **I will ascend** above the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the most High. (as God)**

In the garden of Eden, the devil promised the same temptation to Eve –  
Gen. 3:5 “...ye shall be as gods...”

“...ye shall be as gods...” is “**THE LIE**”

“The Lie” was propagated in the garden and is a plague upon mankind today.

Erich Fromm wrote *Ye Shall be as Gods*, in 1966. His title came from  
Gen. 3:5:

Gen. 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil.

1 Mose 3:5 Sondern Gott weiß: An dem Tag, da ihr davon eßt, werden euch die Augen geöffnet, und **ihr werdet sein wie Gott** und werdet erkennen, was gut und böse ist!



<https://www.bol.com/nl/p/ihr-werdet-sein-wie-gott-eine-radikale-interpretation-des-alten-testaments-und-seiner-tradition/9200000046186069/>

Erich Fromm, an atheist, popularized the idea of self-love. He got it from Nietzsche. One of Fromm's books was *Ye Shall be as Gods*. He took the lie of the serpent for its title.

<https://www.thebereancall.org/content/september-1986-q-and-a-1>

Fromm taught that one must love himself, accept himself, and esteem himself to reach his highest potential.

<http://www.psychoheresy-aware.org/e-books/ECP-ebk.pdf>

This morning, we will look at “The Lie” to see what a hindrance it is to us as we desire to “Arise and Build” our lifetime for His glory.

I. THE INITIATION OF THE LIE “...the devil...is a liar and the father of **it**.”

Gen. 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil.

A. The Author and Ringleader of “The Lie” – “...the devil...”

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, **why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost**, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? **why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.**

## B. The Authentication in Revealing the Liar = the Lord Jesus Christ

Jn. 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;**

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ...

42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* **because ye cannot hear my word.**

❖ The Lord Jesus Christ exposed the author of “The Lie” – the devil.

❖ The Lord Jesus Christ also exposed the believers of “The Lie” – those who do not believe His Word – “...*even* because ye cannot hear my word.”

Jn. 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say **the truth**, why do ye not believe me?

47 **He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.**

## II. THE INFLUENCE OF THE LIE

### A. The Propensity of Insubordination

Gen. 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, **and did eat**, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?



10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

- ❖ Believing “The Lie,” Eve disobeyed the Creator.
- ❖ Eve then influenced Adam to disobey.
- ❖ Adam and Eve’s illumination led to illogical separation from the Creator – “...hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God...” (God is omniscient and omnipresent)



Isa. 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But **your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins** have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

❖ Adam and Eve justified themselves and blamed others when the Lord gave them opportunity to confess:

Gen. 3:12 And the man said, **The woman whom thou gavest to be with me**, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

❖ Self-centered believers of “The Lie” try to cover their iniquities.

❖ God-fearing individuals face their own shortcomings:

Prov. 28:13 **He that covereth his sins shall not prosper**: but whoso **confesseth and forsaketh** *them* shall have mercy.

## B. The Preeminence of Individualism

Eric Fromm is an excellent example of the deceitful influence of “The Lie.”

In his book, *Man for Himself*, he justified the idea we all hate ourselves and we need to learn to love ourselves by saying Jesus taught it when He said, "love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Mt. 22:39).

<https://www.thebereancall.org/content/september-1986-q-and-a-1>

### **“Man is the measure of all things”**

A statement by the ancient Greek philosopher Protagoras. It is usually interpreted to mean that the individual human-being, rather than a god or an unchanging moral law, is the ultimate source of value. <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/man-is-the-measure-of-all-things>

❖ Existentialism is a good example of “The Lie:”

- Existentialism is a 20th century movement viewed by Christianity as the antithesis of faith in God because **the philosophy asserts that God nor absolute truth exist.**
- Existentialism believes in **the total autonomy of a person** from a world and life view apart from a God of sovereign authority, whereas Christianity acknowledges the existence of an all knowing, all powerful, and all present personal Creator who revealed Himself for the purpose of giving human life meaning.
- **Existentialism states that the world is absurd, and there is no hope.** Christianity states that the world is absurd, and it is a wonder there is hope.
- **Existentialism asserts that each person is their own authority concerning truth.** Traditional Christianity insists that **God is the absolute final authority over His creation and all things.**

<https://www.allaboutphilosophy.org/christian-existentialism-faq.htm>

- ❖ “...ye shall be as gods...” implies the epitome of selfishness.
- ❖ The “me first” mentality implies being “as gods.”
- ❖ Believing “The Lie,” Eve put herself as preeminent over the Creator.
- ❖ Idol-makers express their belief in “The Lie” when making idols like themselves:

Psa. 135:15 The idols of the heathen *are* silver and gold, the **work of men's hands**.

16 They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not;

17 They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there *any* breath in their mouths.

18 **They that make them are like unto them:** *so is* every one that trusteth in them.

❖ What a person believes is manifested in the way life is lived.

**As I believe, therefore I live.**

❖ **When we live as though we have no accountability to the Creator, we have become a god unto ourselves.**

❖ Is the Creator the true God, or man the true god of the universe?

❖ Do we believe God-centered or man-centered “Christianity?”

❖ Is Christ preeminent or man preeminent – in our worldview, our worship, etc.?

❖ During the “last days” the emphasis will be “man-centered.”

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that **in the last days** perilous times shall come.

2 For **men shall be lovers of their own selves**, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**

5 **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

❖ To counteract “The Lie,” truth must be known.

### III. THE INVALIDATION OF THE LIE (Knowing the truth)

“All truth is God’s truth” – quoted by Frank Gaebelein, also attributed to John Calvin and Blaise Pascal.

#### A. The Infallible Source of Truth

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Jn. 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**

1 Jn. 5:6 “...And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because **the Spirit is truth.**”

- ❖ The Lord Jesus Christ, His Word, and the Holy Spirit are the source of truth.
- ❖ While Satan is a liar and the father of it, God is changeless and CANNOT lie.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which **God, that cannot lie**, promised before the world began;

Heb. 6:18 That by **two immutable things**, in which **it was impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon **the hope set before us**:

19 Which *hope* we have as **an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast**, and which entereth into that within the veil;

- ❖ The Creator, His Son, and His Word = the ultimate source of truth.



## B. The Individual Search for Truth

- ❖ Perceived truth is too often based upon personal preference.

Prov. 16:25 **There is a way that seemeth right unto a man**, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

Prov. 14:14 **The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways**: and a good man *shall be satisfied* from himself.

- ❖ Individuals are bombarded with lies, forcing choices to be made – choose to believe the Creator or choose to be the final authority, as gods, trusting in self.

Jn. 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. **To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.**

38 Pilate saith unto him, **What is truth?** And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault *at all*.

❖ Searching for truth in a haven of deceit leads to eternal destruction:  
Common lies:

- God is such a loving God that He will let everyone into Heaven.
- Baptism qualifies a person for eternal life.
- The Eucharist is required for eternal life.
- Being a good person, with many good works, will earn eternal life.
- Mary is the mother of God and mediatrix between God and man.
- A priest has power for absolution of sin.
- Man is inherently good.
- There is no God.

- The Word of God is a manmade book with many contradictions.
- Church attendance is not necessary for spiritual growth.
- Man is the measure of all things.
- No one can know whether or not in possession of eternal life.

❖ The truth, according to the Word of God, is knowable:

1 Jn. 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: **for I know whom I have believed**, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

➤ God is holy and all mankind, male and female, are sinners.

Rom. 3:10 As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:**

11 There is none that understandeth, **there is none that seeketh after God. ...**

23 **For all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, **for that all have sinned:**

Rom. 5:8 But **God commendeth his love toward** us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but **the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

- The truth about sin = only by the grace of God, through faith, can anyone receive the gift of eternal life:

Eph. 2:8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: ***it is the gift of God***:

9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

### Conclusion

Believe the Creator or believe “The Lie.” One’s eternal destiny is dependent upon the choice.

Prov. 1:24 Because **I have called, and ye refused**; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 **For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:**

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 **Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.**

