

June 2001

Power Step 9

Put Away All Lying

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.

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. 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. —Genesis 3:1-6

Lies—both our own and those of others—plays a tremendous part in our ability to win over sinning. It is rather sad to have to write about winning over sin, because Jesus already did that, once and for all. He took away sin's power over us. It is we who allow sin to entrap us.

Sin begins with a lie. In the above passage we see that the episode began with the serpent (verse 1). We see that the whole account of the Fall of Man began with a description of the enemy. It let us know that he was very deceptive, very clever. Next, we see him talking to the woman. It appears that he spoke to her first. We don't read what activity Eve was involved in when this occurred, but obviously she was not looking at the fruit. That happened in verse six.

This account is more evidence that it is not the stimulus that causes sin, but what goes on in the heart. I have heard over the years that the fruit was the stimulus, but the true cause of this sin was in the thinking: becoming wise and godlike. Lucifer—the master of Pride—knows exactly how to appeal to the pride of another!

Because since from the beginning of sin, there was the presence of a lie, it is vital that we learn to keep our hearts and minds honest and clean. Satan said something like this: "Die? No way. God's just telling you that to scare you, because He knows if you eat this stuff, you are going to become wise like Him." Eve wanted to be wise and godlike, so she succumbed. We know that Adam did, also. Now they had the knowledge of good and evil. In other words, for the first time, they had a conscience. Before this, they never needed one. But we see that the lie came before the action. Eve did not go skipping out that morning saying, "Well now, I think I'll just go and disobey God today and eat that fruit." That is not what happened. She believed a lie that was told to her.

"Because the devil introduced this sin at the very time man fell from his high and holy state, it has become a part of his carnal nature to lie." (Echols, 16)

*A Woman's Place Ministries
P O Box 936
Winnsboro, SC 29180
Director@awpministries.org*

A Maximum Victory student was telling me that she almost didn't make it [to class]. She had thought it was too hot to go out. "But you did come," I said. "You didn't listen to the lie!" I went on to tell her that I had been sick the past two days. I lost my voice, my throat again, just like the last time. I started thinking, "How am I going to go teach a class?" I told Brother Doty, "You know there must be something special tonight, because ole' slough foot doesn't want this class to go on." He had been sick, too, the blind were leading the blind in our house. But then and there we began to praise God. He started walking and saying Hallelujah, and we said we are going to go. We don't care what the devil don't allow, we going to have that class anyhow. We are going to have our Maximum Victory anyway!

I wonder how many people he actually kept away that night. How many listened to him, how many believed his lies, who should be have been there to hear us talk about this very thing. I am excited because we have a God! I tell God, "I want you to yell at me louder than old slough foot yells. I want to hear you, Lord. Drown him out. If I am listening to him, drown him out!" We need to learn to recognize the lies. We hear the lies and then we sin. Or, we hear the lies and we choose not to sin. We need to learn to train ourselves so that we will not do what the lie is saying. We also need to train ourselves not to lie! In Jeremiah 9:4 God tell us that we can teach our tongues to speak lies!

What is Lying?

If we are going to put away all lying, we must first understand what it is.

Lying is defined by Webster as being "an untruth, falsehood; something that creates a false impression," etc. A falsehood is defined as being a statement that distorts or suppresses the truth, and an untruth is defined as being an incorrect statement. Remember this, there is but one way around telling the truth, and that is to lie. Any time a person undertakes to avoid telling the truth, he is going to lie if he says or does anything otherwise. Remember this also, there is no rubber in the truth—you cannot stretch the truth—and there are no "truthful liars." (Echols, 17)

Three Main Lies.

Lie #1: ____ is good for me.

Whatever that sin is, fill in the blank. That double Whopper is so good and good for me. What about spending time with the boss' wife. You really shouldn't be doing that. You see the lie that you are listening to. "I need a promotion. She can help me—besides she's good looking." So you begin to listen to these lies. It is good for me. It is good for me because it is going to get me a promotion. I am not going to give in to temptation. I am just going to spend a little time with her. I am just going to make her happy so she can go to her husband and recommend a raise and promotion.

What about stealing from Macy's. I deserve a new dress for Camp meeting. I don't have the money, and Macy's has so many dresses. They will never miss one. If you listen to that lie, guess what, you'll end up sinning. As you go to Macy's and walk down the rack and we look,

A Woman's Place Ministries
P O Box 936
Winnsboro, SC 29180
Director@awpministries.org

“That one. I have got to have it. I love it. Got to have that dress! I can’t live without it. I can’t even go to Camp meeting if I don’t have that dress.” You know the drill....

When we sin, we are telling ourselves that something is good for us when actually the Word of God is saying it is not good, it is bad for you. This is what sin is.

Lie #2: I can’t help it.

The temptation is too big. He’s such a hunk. It’s too hard. What about this one—I am too weak. I just can’t stand up to that temptation. What about: I can’t pray tonight because I am too ill. Somebody was telling me before this class tonight that they had begun to let up some in their prayer life. They said that God spoke to them and gave them a revelation that if you don’t pray, where is the covering for all your children and grandchildren. If we say we are too ill, and the devil has worked this one on me quite a bit. There are times that I feel like I can’t even sit up, much less pray. He would use that weapon against us.

I have heard these two: “I can’t help how much I love him, Sister Doty!” and “I know I have a husband, but I don’t think God really wants me with this husband because I am in love with this other man, and he’s more spiritual than my husband.” Another lie is this one: “What can it hurt? No one is going to know.” People into the “secret sins,” such as pornography, depend on this lie.

Lie #3: God understands.

He knows I am weak. All through the Bible He talks about our weakness. He talks about we were born in iniquity and all of this. What about this one? He knows I need food for my baby. He understands what I feel. He will excuse me. He understands that I can’t help it. He understands that I am just a victim. He understands that 40 years ago I was abused and that is why I am the way I am now. I am a miserable wreck. I am lying to everybody. He knows that I am lying because I am a victim so He is excusing it. He understands why I can’t forgive this person. I have to forgive if I am going to find healing. I am a victim. God knows and He understand why I can’t forgive. God agrees with me. He is not making me forgive.

Do you see how these lies begin to be reality to us as we begin to believe them. The bottom line is this: Sin deceives and it kills. What we believe, we will do it. As you read the Word of God, begin to pray with David. Create in me a clean heart. Create it. Lord, I have a black heart. I have been watching that pornography and I can’t stop. Lord Create in me a clean heart. As I read the Word, He will do it. What does God say about the Word? Jesus said to his disciples, “Ye are clean through the Word that I have spoken to you.”

(© From upcoming new book by Sister Doty, MAXIMUM VICTORY, to be released late summer 2001.)

God bless you,
Your friend,
Lynda Allison Doty

A Woman's Place Ministries
P O Box 936
Winnsboro, SC 29180
Director@awpministries.org

Copyright 1998. © 2002 Lynda Allison Doty and AWPMinistries. No portion of this website may be reproduced in any form or by any means, without the prior written permission of the owner.