

AWAY FROM LIES, SWEARS AND VOWS

“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “Do not break your oaths you have made to the Lord.” But I tell you, don not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is His footstool. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” (Matthew 5:33-37)

The Spirit of truth gives life and light that makes our life shining; showing us the way. In spite of all troubles and difficulties, and leading us steadfastly toward our heavenly dwelling – to live forever with our Lord and God.

In John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus is the lord who saves. He came down from heaven to provide a way for men to go to heaven. He gave His life to give eternal life to everyone who believes in Him. “That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” (Romans 10:9-10)

Jesus is the truth. He spoke the all truth in this life and the new life to come. Jesus said to those who believed in Him, ***“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)***

For a man who does not know Jesus, it does not matter to him whether he speaks the truth or the lie provided that he can express or prove what he wants. People speak or just take such issues lightly. But if we know Jesus and we do not tell the truth we simply sin; and this is prevalent in the world today. We speak lies to win favour, to gain position and possessions. Such standard has corrupted the world and has destroyed confidence to a person’s word. Consequently, that lack of confidence has created another phenomenon; since whoever wants to confirm that what he is telling is true he combines it with swear and vow.

- 1- **Swear:** Because the lack of trust has become so prevalent, that whatever is spoken is not just accepted, this forces a person to swear. He swears by the name of the Lord, by heaven or earth, by his parents, wife or children. In different places and culture people swear by different names and things using idols of various kinds. Some people do not just swear to confirm that they are telling the truth, but in order to deceive others and pass unto them their evil plans. They even swear in the name of the living

God. But God has warned us: ***“You shall not misuse that name of the Lord you God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuse His name.” (Deuteronomy 5:11)*** “Who are you, man, to swear? You are only a creature, created by the Lord God and you cannot do anything apart from God.” Jesus declared, ***“Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’, and your ‘No’ be ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. “ (Matthew 5:36-37)*** The word of God clearly warns us not to swear: ***“Above all, my brothers, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else, Let your ‘Yes’ be yes, and your ‘No’ be no, or you will be condemned. (James 5:12)***

We may refrain from swearing because we come to know that it is not acceptable to God, but we have also to keep telling the truth. There is no big or small lie. People may not notice, or even discover our lies but God who knows everything. We may lie over the phone, speak lies to people who do not know us, sign false documents or become false witness. But remember, ***“The lamp of the Lord searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being. “ (Proverbs 20:27)***

- 2- **Vows:** This is making a promise to be fulfilled toward man or toward God. In regard to vows: ***“This is what the Lord commands: When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.” (Numbers 30:1-2)*** ***“When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than you make a vow and not fulfill it. Do not let your mouth lead you to sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger, ‘My vow was a mistake.’ Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands?” (Ecclesiastes 5:4-6)***

Jesus came to this world to speak all truth, and soon He will come again to judge the world by His world of truth. He is the way, He is the truth and He is the life. God wants us to be honest toward Him and toward other people as well as wise, not to promise something but not to fulfill it. Being as child of God, we should not pass into such experience. We ought to be good examples for others; and we must be aware that: ***“It is a trap for as man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows.” (Proverbs20:25)***

“Father God in heaven, I come to You in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins. Cleanse my mouth, lips and heart from lies. Transform me Lord, and help me to overcome and get rid of my old ways of life. Thank you, Lord for renewing me. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.”