

WORDS THAT WITNESS

10 Commandments Series - #9

8/30/2026 • DeDe Southwick

Exodus 20:16 – "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

Truth is the absolute reality. A lie is twisting or changing reality.

Walking in truth, is aligning with the absolute reality anchored in the character, Word and Person of God—*rather than our opinion*.

God is truth (Deut 32:4, Is 65:16, Jn 14:6) **God does not lie** (Heb 6:18, Nu 23:19, Tit 1:2).

A witness is someone who *accurately* speaks or lives what they have been exposed to.

The Three layers of Words that Witness:

1. Speak _____

Be marked by truth:

- **Daniel** (6:4) when accusations were brought against him, "*they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful.*"
- **Caleb** (14:25) when others gave exaggerated reports, he spoke of God's promises "*But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows Me wholeheartedly...*"
- **Abigail** (1 Sam 25) she spoke truth about her husband AND to David, pointing him back to God's character.
- **Nathan** (2 Sam 12) his boldness with David is a great example of truth breaks through a carefully constructed lie.

Before we speak, ask: It is _____ and _____?

2. _____ others

Gossip is sharing bad news, rumors or what was shared in confidence about an *absent* person to get attention, feel included, or make them look bad.

- Prov 20:19 "*The one who goes about gossiping reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with someone who is always opening his mouth.*"

Slander is speaking false, _____ words with the intent of harm.

- Prov 10:18 "*The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever **utters slander** is a fool.*"
- Lev 19:16 "*Do not go about **spreading slander** among your people*"

We can damage someone's reputation with just one word, _____

Flattery is giving someone false or _____ praise, just to please them or get something out of it.

- (Jude v16) "*These people are grumblers and complainers, living only to satisfy their desires. They brag loudly about themselves, and **they flatter others to get what they want.***"
- Ps 12:2 "*They speak falsehood to one another; With **flattering lips** and with a double heart they speak.*"
- Prov 28:23 "*In the end, people appreciate honest criticism far more than **flattery.***"

Before we speak, ask: Will these words _____ or _____?

3. _____ God.

- 2 Cor 5:20a "*We are ambassadors for Christ*"
- 2 Cor 3:3 "*You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*"
- 1 Cor 10:31 "*Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*"

Before we speak, ask: Does this _____ the God I represent?