



Closing the Gap Between Belief and Behavior!
October 12, 2025 – The Book of James
Closing the Gap with truthfulness!

James 5:12 (ESV)

¹²But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Matthew 5:34–37

³⁴But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “**I am** the way, and **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Spirit in you! Alert! Submissive! Responsive!
The Spirit of Truth! John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13

Revelation 19:11

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and **True**, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

Our quest to be believed and to believe!

1. We think oaths and swearing assure truthfulness.

→ We think invoking God’s name to guarantee the reliability of what a person says. And they ensure the truthfulness of what one had affirmed or promised. (Pillar Commentary)

→ God can swear by His name because He cannot lie.
READ: Hebrews 6:13-18; 7:24-25

2. But the Word of God says, through James and Jesus, “Do not swear or take any oath!”

Jesus too: Matthew 5:34–37

→ swearing by oaths presumes upon God to validate your words.
→ lying creates your own reality/world. But it doesn’t!
 > It expresses that you are the Christ.
→ Two reasons why swearing give no help in being truthful:
1) Satan is a Liar: John 8:44

2) Everyone’s old nature lies!
Galatians 5:19f and Acts 5:1-11

-- Be doers of the word who act! --

Close the gap between your belief and your behavior –
with truthfulness!

1. Always tell the truth:

if the answer is yes, say yes. If the answer is no, say no.
“let your yes be yes and your no be no”!

2. To be truthful: follow James’ helps in the Word!

> Speak carefully not carelessly! James 3:1-12; Matthew 12:36-37

> Don’t speak from your passions! James 4:1-4

> Speak humbly not boasting! James 4:13-18

Also see John 17:17 and 8:31-32

3. To be truthful:

Know Christ is **in** you! Stay **alert**, in **submission**, and **responsive** to His Spirit.

Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6) and the Spirit is the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13). Also see Galatians 2:20; 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

Application questions on the back →

--- Close the Gap with truthfulness! ---
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SUNDAY after church...

Think through your morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give! 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received! 3) List songs or lyrics that touched your heart.

MONDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTED** When testifying in a court room, people are asked to swear that "they will tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth". Does this solemn act guarantee that it will be "the whole truth and nothing but the truth"? Why or why not? **PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

TUESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** We desire to be believed and to believe others. But believing comes down to truthfulness. James has given us at least three helps. Write out an application or observation on how each is helpful to be truthful:

- 1) Speak carefully not carelessly (3:1-12; also Matthew 12:36-37)
- 2) Don't speak from passion. (4:1-4)
- 3) Speak humbly not boasting. (4:13-18)

Pray: Pray over your applications.

WEDNESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** In the flesh we cannot attain truthfulness (or the oaths would have worked). Look up John 8:44 and write out how this verses helps understand why lying might come so easy.

Look up Galatians 5:19-21. The word truth is not included, but obviously fits many of the deeds listed. Write out why these leanings of our flesh might help is to understand why lying might come so easy.

Pray: Pray over your applications.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** Learn to depend, moment by moment, on the indwelling life of Christ by His Spirit who is called the Spirit of Truth. Take some time to write out your observations and applications of this truth. How can you better be alert to His presence in you? How can you submit to His leading? How can you learn to quickly respond to His leading?

PRAY: Pray over your observations and applications.

SATURDAY

Prepare your heart for Sunday's gathering by being ready to fully engage in the worship.