Man's Propensity to Lie!

In Act 1, Scene 2 of ***Henry IV***, Shakespeare's pen has the character Falstaff commenting on mankind's propensity to lie. The specific comment comes on the heels of a lie told by Prince Hal (the lie is that Hal claims to have killed himself!). Whereupon Falstaff speaks a now somewhat famous line, ***"Lord, lord, how this world is given to lying."***

From Satan's lie to Eve to modern politicians lies to constituents everywhere on earth, man's penchant for lying is astoundingly obvious! Mankind lies to get ahead, lies to create feigned superiority over others, lies to look cool, lies to get a date, lies to get a loan, lies to the IRS, lies to sell a used car, lies to get cash, lies to avoid punishment, lies to avoid embarrassment, et cetera, et cetera, ad infinitum, ad nauseum.

Let's run the numbers. If we search for the words "lie, lies, lying" we find in these translations that they appear quite often:

New American Standard Bible: 378 times
King James: 393 times
New King James: 460 times
English Standard Version: 457 times.

Hmmm. seems as if God is making a point! (And these numbers do not reflect passages wherein God addresses lying without using the actual word!)

Some see lying as a minor infraction, but in Jeremiah's day, one of the sins that cost the nation of Judah their national sovereignty and 70 years captivity in a foreign country was lying! One of several examples of lying is in Jeremiah chapter 9 verse 3, **"They bend their tongue like their bow; Lies and not truth prevail in the land; For they proceed from evil to evil, And they do not know Me," declares the Lord.**

The King James Version uses an ugly phrase, "all deceivableness," in 2 Thess. 2:10, **"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** You see, don't you! They perished because they did not receive a love of the truth! No wonder Solomon warned us to "buy the truth and sell it not." (Proverbs 23:23).

Galatians 2:5 shows us that truth is a necessary component of the gospel (good news), **But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you."**

Perhaps the most convincing evidence of the eternally destructive nature of lies is Revelation 21:8, **"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."** Notice the only sin that is emphasized with "all" is "liars." *OUCH!*

God is calling us to a level of integrity that very few take seriously. He is calling us to a level of truth that is far more challenging than even most Christians realize. And yet that level of dedication to truth is both life-changing and soul-freeing. God's truth, daily truth, *actual truth,* not merely someone's version of truth, is calling us to a life of joy and freedom that only comes from a level of integrity that rises above the average earthly, daily life and sets us in His presence. Always remember Jesus' words about God's truth, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," John 8:32.

Ray Wallace