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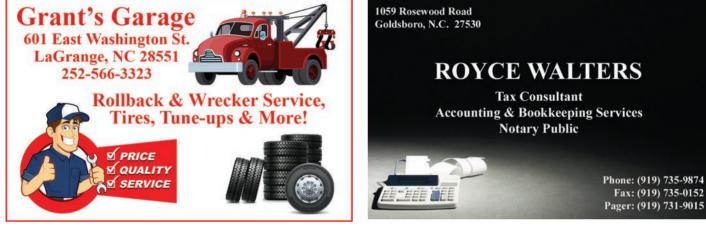
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PathPointe

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We are living in a lying generation! We have grown to expect most politicians to lie, but now you can't even trust your fellow Christian to be honest with you. They say they will meet you at 10:00, but you know they will be late. They promise to get a job done by Friday, but you know it most likely will not come to pass. Of course, you might say that such things are just little white lies, but *white lies matter*!

I don't honestly remember ever lying to my parents. Now, I will admit I did not always volunteer information unless they specifically asked, but if they asked, I would tell them the truth. Many kids today make it a regular habit to lie to their parents without any apparent conviction. Something must be wrong here.

I have noticed a common excuse today among those who fail to meet their commitments; they say "I forgot." They use that childish scapegoat quite often and with great skill. Forgetting is certainly a crime I have been guilty of on occasion, but forgetting is still a lie. Although I honestly forgot, I still told you I would do something and I didn't do it. It may not have been intentional, but it was still a lie. It may not fit into the category of what we used to call a "bald-face lie", but I still need to apologize and make plans to not let this happen again. Forgetting is like having an accident. I might collide with your car while leaving church, sure it was an accident, but it was still my fault, and I need to apologize, make things right, and design a plan so it will not happen again.

Perhaps the first step in finally becoming an honest Christian is to accept the fact that it is not just wrong, it is a sin to lie. I will be the first to admit that every Christian is tempted to lie, and many do, even more than we might realize. There are other forms of lying other than willfully altering the truth. For example, avoidance of the truth is one of those forms of deceit we need to give consideration.

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17

Typically, when we think about truth and lies, we think in black and white terms. Either it is truth, it is the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, or it is a lie. Most Godfearing Christians know better than to tell blatant, obvious lies. The bigger temptation for us is when we fall into the dominion of the *"little white lie."* That is where we spin, alter, or avoid the truth.

Lying is sometimes a response from a person who is afraid to love someone enough to tell them the truth. Maybe we do not want to hurt their feelings. Concern for others "*can be*" wise, pure, and right in some situations. Then there are other times when sinful motives are in play because we do not want to be in conflict with someone.

"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" Galatians 4:16 Many marriages work this way: one spouse is afraid to speak the truth to the other spouse because of the anger that blows back on them. The truth-telling spouse learns to avoid the truth, which eventually builds up a cancerous wall in their relationship.

Learning to speak the whole truth is a hard concept to apply, particularly if you live with a controlling, proud, and often-angry mate.

Examples of Little White Lies

Consider these examples of what we might call "*Christian lying*", if such a term can actually exist.

Taking Away From The Truth To take away from the truth is not telling the whole truth. This situation is where it can become tricky because at times it is not wise to tell the whole truth. For example, are you really going to tell the Nazi soldier that you have a Jewish family hiding in your attic? Your goal is not to hide the truth, but trying to discern when the individual is mature enough to handle the truth or if the individual



has a right to the information they are seeking.

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." John 16:12

What are your reasons for withholding the truth? To intentionally leave out parts of the truth can be motivated by selfprotective fear rather than a heart of love for the other person, or for reasons of privacy.

Adding To The Truth. This approach is taking the truth and adding more to it. To spin things for impact or to make yourself look better than you are speaks to a deceitful heart. You may be tempted to embellish the truth if you talk more about the things you do right than the things you do wrong. Sometimes, we hide our own faults while embellishing the faults of others.

Avoiding The Truth. Sometimes we don't want others to know the whole story. So, we evade the truth. Even the great King David, who was a man after God's heart, had a hard time telling the whole truth. Only after Nathan confronted him did David finally speak the truth.

Being transparent and honest with others is hard. It takes a lot of courage. Yet, to lie is to reveal your authentic relationship with the Lord. Distorting the truth is often deeply rooted in a sin problem. While the behavior may be lying to others, the first breakdown when I lie is between God and me. Remember, every honorable commitment you make to someone else, is also a



commitment to God. Why can't I trust the Lord and just tell the truth regardless of what others may think of me? Why is my craving for approval or fear of rejection more important than making God's name great? Why do I feel the need to tear down others to elevate my own self? Why do I make excuses when I lie? Lying is a crisis in faith. I do not believe we realize how insidious this temptation to skew the truth is working in us. Usually when we lie we are showing that we are more loyal to ourselves than to the Lord.

Once we develop a habit of lying, we are going to drift so far from the truth, even to the point of not being able to identify when we are no longer telling the truth. Some actually become convinced of their own lies. Although we try to clean it up by saying, "I forgot" or "I didn't mean to", failure to honor a commitment is a lie, and it needs to be treated as such. Personally, I waste far too much time waiting for Christians who show up late (or never show up at all), or for payments that are never made, or for commitments that are not honored. Then, all I get in the process is "I forgot." Good grief! White lies matter!

Since Adam fell in the garden, man has been tempted to lie. We were born liars, and we are shaped by society to be unreliable. Most of us are just following the examples we have seen all around us. We get handed a truck load of lies every day. But, your Lord is powerful enough to reshape your faith and release you to walk in His truth.

Have you considered that God's Word is an extension of Himself? He can no more be severed from His Word than He can be severed from His power. Likewise, our forefathers believed that a man's word was also an extension of himself. A man's word, just like his life, liberty, and property was an integral part of his being. Your words are a part of you. They represent you. They *are* you!

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:37

Therefore, it is right to expect Christians to honor their word, pay their bills, do what they say, and be where they say they are going to be. Certainly, there are times we all forget to honor a commitment. None of us are perfect, and as I get older my memory seems to be failing me more and more. However, I must realize that when I do not keep my word, even though it was unintentional, I owe you an apology and I may need to make restitution, and I certainly need to make concrete plans to keep my incompetence and unreliability in check.

So, let's do a quick check-up: Are you often tempted to lie? In what areas are you tempted to lie the most? When you withhold the truth, is your motive for God's glory and the other person's benefit, or something else? What do your temptations to lie reveal about your relationship with God? Do vou often fail to meet commitments? If you failed to honor your word this week, what is your plan of forgiveness, confession, and reconciliation? And finally, have you just lied to yourself in any way by how you answered these questions?

So, let's be honest and above reproach. Let us be known for our reliability and honesty. And should the rare occasion arise when some form of withholding the truth might be beneficial to the Kingdom, may we approach this sacred ground only as led by the Spirit...after all, white lies matter.

See you next month, unless I forget!



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.









"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1-2

As people of faith, we believe in a God we cannot see, rewards we have not received, and a heaven we have never visited. One could easily assume we would believe anything, but our faith does have a basis. There is clear evidence of the unseen and the unknown.

We often believe traffic reporters on the news when they tell us of road delays or closings they can see from a helicopter. We utilize



Living By Faith

the provided information to avoid needless interruptions during our travel. We have faith that the people in the helicopter can see much more from the air than we can from the street. They have a different perspective than we have. We then demonstrate our trust in their word by taking a different route to our destination.

Modern radar makes approaching storms easier to predict. We might not see a storm that is miles away, but the radar indicates its location, intensity, and route of travel. Again, the radar has a better perspective than we, and we have faith in the technology.

Likewise, things are happening in the spiritual realm we cannot see or understand. Our perspective is limited, so if we are to obtain information, we must seek a higher perspective. That is where our Lord comes into the picture. We trust Him to give us the details of the things we cannot see. These details are contained in the Bible and in the illumination the Holy Spirit may give us in our day to day lives.

Satan wants us to believe our faith is just a shot in the dark with no basis or foundation. When we listen to our Lord, we are tapping into an information source from a higher perspective. His direction can give us guidance in any area of our lives. How foolish we would be not to place our trust in Him!

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Artist Spotlight - The Mills Family Over 30 Years Of Ministry

The Mills Family (American Indians from the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe in Hollister; NC) has been in fulltime ministry since 1988. Prior to that, both Mike and Jimille traveled with Mike's uncle, Quinton Mills, for nearly 12 years in their group known as *Quinton Mills* and *Deliverance*. For a brief while after that, they both sang with Mike's brother, Frank, in a group called *Blessed* Assurance.

Through the years, *The Mills Family* evolved as children were born and as people joined and left their team. In 1991, Brooke was born. She recorded her first song at 2 years old as a duet with her mom singing, "Jesus Loves Me". Next to join the team was Katherine Langley Medlin from Kenly, NC. Singing alto and lead, Kat fit right in with the family, even helping Jimille with home schooling. Doug Peace from Springhope, NC, came on board as the bus driver. Linwood Richardson from Hollister, NC, traveled with The Mills Family for a brief time while helping with the driving and occasionally sharing his testimony. Then came Mike and Jimille's youngest children, Mikey and Leah. They were very involved with the ministry doing special drama presentations and singing for the children and youth.

Now, as we fast forward to the present, the kids are all grown up, and it is back to just Mike and Jimille. Mike is an ordained bishop in the Church of God. Pastors across the country have shared the comment that "*Mike brings the spark that is needed for revival, yet he delivers a solid message that stays with the church long after the revival is over*." Mike's testimony of God healing him from Crohn's Disease has been a powerful witness to those in need of a physical touch. Jimille has a voice and delivery that will amaze you and bless you at the same time. Along with her passion for singing, she is an anointed minister and holds credentials in the Church of God. She speaks at women's conferences and is a highly sought-after praise and worship leader.

Some may remember Brooke on NBC's *The Voice* where she sang "Amazing Grace". She ended the show in third place from over 60,000 competitors and reached millions of people in one night on the show. What an outreach! Recently, *America's Got Talent* reached out to Brooke to audition for their show, and they are hoping she wins the whole thing this time.

Through the years of ministry, *The Mills Family* has appeared on Day Star Television Network. They have appeared with noted authors such as Tommy Tenney, Dr. Mike Murdock, and Jentezen Franklin. *The Mills Family* has also appeared with Christian recording artists Karen Wheaten, Jason Crabb, Judy Jacobs, Nicole Mullen, Babbie Mason, and worked with Kenny Hinson.

"We have considered ourselves blessed as we look back through the years and see God's hand on our ministry. And we have great anticipation for what God has for us next."

You can follow *The Mills Family* at *www. millsfamilyministries.com* and on all social media platforms, including Facebook. You can also keep up with their ministry dates and the release date of their new CD as well.



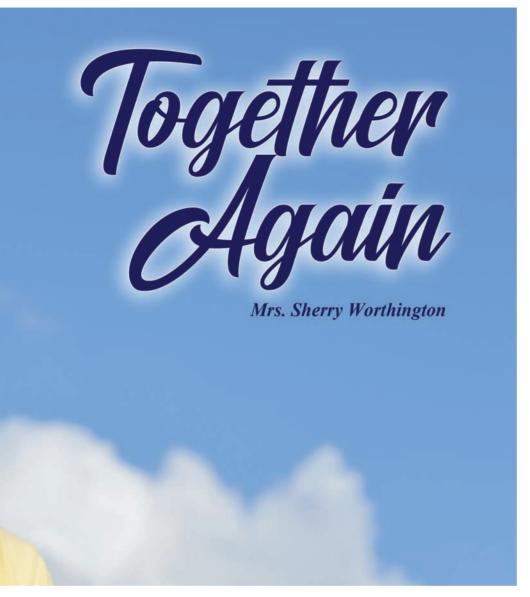
Well, Mom and Dad, you are together again! Sixty-three years ago you were married and swore until death do us part. You celebrated sixty-one years together on this earth. Dad left to be with Jesus two years ago, and now, Mom, you are with him also. The neat thing is death only separated you temporarily. You are together now.

This has been a tough few months. When mom lost her independence, it crushed her. She always looked at it as temporary. Since March she has lost her independence a little at a time. The hardest thing for her was when she was unable to drive herself wherever she needed to go. She always felt she was going to beat this health issue.

My mom died of congestive heart failure, but she was a fighter. She was always planning to get better, even though all odds were against it. I have learned something through all of this. When my dad was sick, it was tough. It was hard watching the man who was my hero slowly waste away, but Mom was on the front line. We helped, but she was there day in and day out.

When Mom got sick, she had to be taken care of. She would constantly apologize for the inconvenience. We repeatedly told her, it was an honor and special privilege. It wasn't any trouble. When my son was helping her one time, he reminded her how often she took care of him when he was little. This seemed to comfort her a little. Life had made a full circle.

Our parents or grandparents feed us and comfort us when we are little. They wipe our faces and clean our bottoms. They teach us to walk, and the things that help us to develop in life. As we grow, they become our friends and confidants. They give us advice that may save us a lot of trouble. At the end of life, we are supporting our loved ones as they



use walkers or we push them in wheelchairs to the doctor's office. As they lose their functions one at a time, we must see it as more than a responsibility, we should look at it as an honor to care for them.

It is difficult to watch our loved ones deteriorate before our eyes. We see the body slow down and lose its vitality. I think this helps us prepare for death. It is hard to leave our family and friends here on this earth. We know Heaven is wonderful, but we really don't understand how wonderful Heaven truly is. I think if we knew how grand it was, we might be tempted to help death along. When the body hurts and gets achy, we start to long for that youthful body. When we see our loved ones hurting, we long for them to be pain free and in their new bodies. We long for them to see Jesus. You see, we must remember when a loved one dies, if he is a child of God, he is truly going to a better place. It is not a cliché or something to say, it is the truth.

The greatest thing about death is that we will see the Savior face to face. He is the one that died for us and intercedes for us in Heaven. Our Father created us to serve Him and to live with Him on high one day. How can we beat that? We also have a family reunion when we go to Heaven. I don't know exactly how all of that works, but it will be a glorious time. Mom will see her husband, son, parents, grandparents, and the beautiful babies she lost that she has never seen.

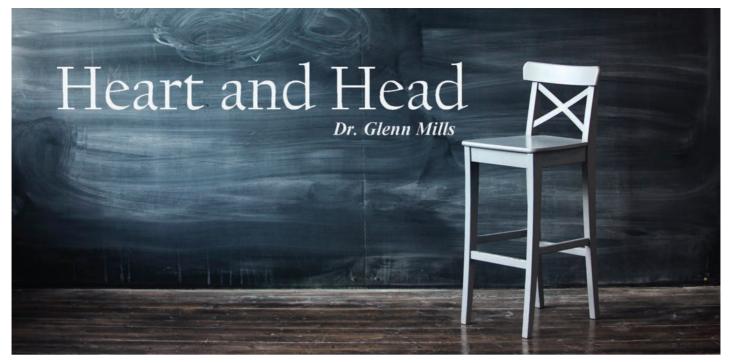
When David lost his child in II Samuel 12, he told his servants something that brings me great comfort. David tells his servants that one day he will go and see his son who had died. David had fasted and mourned for his child and the servants were afraid to tell him the child had died. In verse 23 David tells his servants "I will go to him, but he shall not return to me." Praise the Lord! This should bring comfort to any couple who has had a miscarriage or lost a child. If you are born again, you will see him someday.

This truth alone should encourage us to evangelize the world and especially those that we love. Do you know if the people you love are saved? What are you waiting for? Share the Gospel with them today. Don't wait!

I got to tell my mom, "Good-bye, I will see you soon. Tell Dad hello and give him my love." Can you say that to your loved ones? Share Christ with them today! "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15



Mrs. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.



In case I haven't mentioned it before, I hated school when I was a child. I actually loved hating school. I had rather do anything than go to school. I even wanted to work more than go to school. I grew up on a family farm. It was hard work, but I would still rather do hard farm work than go to school. That bad attitude of hating school caught up to me by the second grade. I went to class, but I wasn't really there. My mind was at the farm, fishing the local ponds, playing with my dogs, exploring the woods, basically anything but school. While I only did what I had to do to pass, the teacher said I needed to repeat the second grade. Sadly, she convinced my mother. The teacher felt I would not be able to keep up with the other students if I was allowed to advance to the next grade level.

So, I repeated the second grade; still I only did what I had to do to get by. I only did well in subjects that were interesting to me. High School was not much better except for gym class, carpentry, the FFA (*Future Farmers of America*), and the Bible Club. Thank God they let me graduate.

But everything changed a few years later. I accepted Jesus as my Saviour when I was thirteen. By the time I was in my twenties, I felt the call of God on my life to preach the gospel. My pastor at the time said a call to ministry was a call to prepare. So, it was back to school. But this time it would be much different because I wanted to learn. Because of my new eagerness to learn, I was more than willing to sit and listen to the teachers and do my very best. Learning became exciting. I often wondered how things might have been if I had loved learning as much when I was younger. Thank God I finally was willing to be taught.

This story is very similar to many who come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Jesus comes for our hearts and gives us salvation through His precious blood. We not only receive Jesus, but we also receive the Holy Spirit. However, while Jesus comes for our hearts, the Holy Spirit comes for our mind.

Please lend me your imagination for a moment as I explain this new relationship with the Spirit that may help us better understand. When we accept Jesus and the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, it is like starting school. Life is the classroom, and the Holy Spirit is the Teacher. Now, just because we are in this "spiritual class", just as I was in my school class as a young boy, that does not mean we will actually learn anything.

The Holy Spirit desires to teach us what we need to know to grow and mature. But how often is it that we don't want to listen, like me when I was a child? To truly listen does not just mean to hear sound, but instead it means to comprehend and understand that which you hear. How often are our minds on the things of the world instead of what the Spirit is trying to teach us?

Many Christians spend years like I did, doing just enough to get by, but not fully yielding or listening to the Teacher. We can know of Jesus, but the relationship never grows any deeper because we don't allow the Spirit to reveal all that He is, all He has done, and what He desires to do. There are so many things we can learn and do if only we would listen. The opportunities are unlimited. Our lives could go in so many different directions. While we never really graduate from the class of life *(until parted by death)*, the Teacher is still with us to help us.

Thank God He has a plan for each of us and knows every decision we will ever make. Even our mess ups are calculated into His plans. He is loving and very patient. He even knows when or if we will finally yield to His Holy Spirit. My grades totally changed when I finally listened to my physical teachers; just as my life has totally changed since I yielded to the Holy Spirit, my spiritual Teacher.

I had known Jesus for many years, but experienced a void in my life until I finally yielded to the leading and teaching of the Holy Spirit. It was then that I began to fully understand just who God and Jesus really are. Suddenly, the Bible was not just another book, it was now the living Word of God. Once I yielded to the Holy Spirit, I began to experience true joy and total peace. I went from a religious to a loving relationship with Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit.

It is a great thing to give our hearts to Jesus, but we must also be willing to give our minds to the Holy Spirit. He will teach us everything we need to know, and when we need to know it. He is not only our Teacher, but also our Comforter and Strength. His desire is to reveal to us all that God and Jesus want to do with us, for us, and through us. He constantly points us to God, our Father, and Jesus, our Lord. Everything we will ever face, the Teacher is there to help us. His teaching instructs us on how to handle all of life's situations and how we can avoid things that would harm us.

I have no doubt you may have a beautiful, personal relationship with Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. My prayer for you is that you are also in a loving relationship with the Holy Spirit, our Teacher. In **I Corinthians** 6:19, the Bible reveals we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. In **Romans 12:1-2**, it says we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God and to renew our minds. That is the work of the Teacher.



He is always showing us how to live holy, pure, and pleasing to God. He shows us how to follow Jesus as He commanded in **Matthew 16:24**. The Spirit desires to fill us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, if only we will yield completely to Him.

I cannot change the years I did not listen or fully yield to the Holy Spirit, but I can truly make the best of the time I have left in this life. The more I listen to the Teacher, the more I love Jesus, God, and others. The more I listen and yield, the more I grow and mature spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally, and financially. I no longer just show up for class, I come to listen and learn from the great Teacher Jesus gave me. I choose to no longer focus on the world or things I might want to do. I want to learn, mature, and grow in Christ. I pray that is your desire as well. Pay close attention, my friend, because class is in session, and the Teacher is ready to begin.



Dr. Glenn Mills is a long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio and a full-time Evangelist with the Open Arms Evangelistic Ministry.

And Finally...



Thank A Healthcare Worker...

As a former healthcare hospital worker, I understand the long hours and dedication you must be putting in. We really appreciate the dedication and effort you are putting forth right now. Please stay safe and healthy during these times. Thank you for everything you do! **B. B.**

I'm so thankful for ALL the healthcare workers that are putting themselves in harm's way! I see the sacrifice they make daily through my family and friends in healthcare, working in the pharmacies, and doing the research for us. You are everyday heroes! **D. M.**

I feel that just saying "thank you" to all of you front line workers it's not enough. Because of your selfless work and dedication, many lives are being saved every day. My heartfelt gratitude and my prayers are with each one of you every day. Thank you for making this world a better place! I. F.

Thank you so, so very much for all that you have done to help us all during this pandemic. You all are so AMAZING! We appreciate all that you have done. My niece is a nurse, so I get how much you are going through. Take care and be well. **M. S.**

As a retired ICU RN, I don't know how you are able to come to work every day. You must be physically and mentally exhausted. I'm sure your patient assignments have increased. However, you guys are rock stars! You are saving more people every day. Thank you for all you do. Please try to take care of yourselves. **K. D.**

I just want to say I think that all of you deserve the moon, stars, and anything beyond in return for your heroic efforts during this traumatic time in history. I hope that you all are doing your self-care because you all need and deserve it now and always!

M.A.

"My Favorite Teacher"

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..."
Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about your favorite teacher.
The deadline for submission is August 30, 2021.
You can send an email to: share@gomixradio.org
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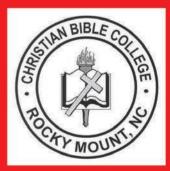


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