

Reflections

Volume 33

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St. Paul Ministry

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Endeavor For Truth In Life



Blessings to All:

Each of us have been taught by our parents and teachers, that telling the truth is important. We look for truth in what we see and hear from family and friends to help guide us in our earthly journey. Many of us have experience hearing untruths or lies coming from others. The subject matter could be as simple as who drank from the bottle of milk in the fridge and left the lid off, to much more serious things.

We all hunger for truth. Young children naturally tell the truth. They do not try to hide from questions posed by others. Their spirits are pure and lying is foreign to them.



As we grow older, we learn that if we lie about something, there will less punishment or can escape with no consequences. The mother coming upon a scene like the one shown in the picture on the left would ask, "Jimmy, did you do that?". And the child might raise his hands in a gesture of "I don't know how that happened, I didn't do it."

When as adults, we do something we know is not right, we convince ourselves that know one will know or that it is just a little white lie. But we are not telling ourselves the truth. We are hiding from the truth. And if this condition continues

long enough in our lives, the lying becomes who we are. And that is dangerous to the soul. Small deceptions of any sort lead to an accumulation of greater and greater deceptions. If we give up on telling the truth, then the untruth in our lives become the norm.

C.S. Lewis in his book *The Screwtape Letters* is a fictional story that takes the form of a series of letters from a senior Demon called *Screwtape* to his nephew *Wormwood*, a junior tempter. The uncle's mentorship to the nephew's responsibility in securing the damnation of a British man known only as *the Patient*. I recommend the book/audio to you. It is written in a satirical style and while it is fictional in format, the plot and characters are used to address Christian theological issues, primarily those to do with temptation and resistance to it.



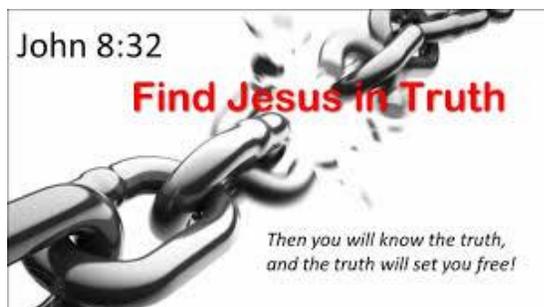
Lewis makes a good point in his writings on the importance of turning truth into lies to help in the temptation of "*the Patient*". One of his lines addresses a deeper reason to spin the truth by whatever means to turn "*the Patient*" toward hell as the cumulative effect of minor sins to be used. "*It does not matter how small the sins are*

provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed, the safest road to Hell is the gradual one--the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

No one escapes the temptations easier to point the finger at truth within ourselves.



in life. Sometimes it is others that to accept the



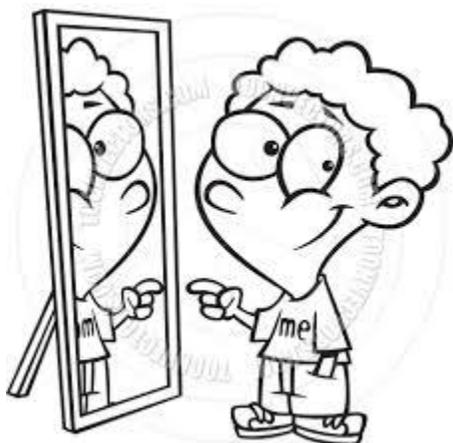
When we recognize that the path we are on is controlling our eternal destiny, and ask for God's help, the Spirit of Truth will convict us and aid us in resisting whatever is taking us off course. Many people suffer the chains of sins in various

forms. And we all experience temptations of various kinds in our lives. Jesus came to set us free if we acknowledge our need for help through His Divine Mercy. Breaking the chains of sin cannot be done through our physical being but only through the spiritual graces that come from the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus.



Jesus teach us that the truth will set us free. He is talking about the chains of sin that bind us. To break these chains, call upon Him and **He is Truth** and He will set us free. **Lying is one form of being dishonest with oneself.**

In the Gospel of Luke, we see the importance of truth in 16:10. "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."



Taking responsibility in small things, will help build resistance to the temptations presented to us. Like the *Patient* in Lewis' book who is always being tempted, the Light of Truth destroys the Devils lies. Taking charge of Truth is important.

Very Short-Short Stories of Love and Hope

I was on the bus on my way to the mall, when a homeless man sat next to me.

He saw that I was looking at the bouquet of flowers he held, and told me that they were for his wife because today is her birthday.

As he got off the bus, he walked into the cemetery and placed the flowers on his wife's grave.

A love that never dies **GMH**. (From LoveGivesMeHope)

LOVE
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15 years ago, two kids fell in love with each other.

The girl then had to move 1500 miles away, but the boy promised he would find her one day.

Last year, she was in the hospital. The doctor walked in and said, "I told you I would find you one day."

We are getting married in a month. **LGMH**

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A long time ago, I was on the verge of committing suicide when a guy came to the roof to have lunch.

He saw me climbing over the railing and asked me to share his lunch with him. After receiving my puzzled look, he explained,

"Everyone should die happy. Or at least with a full stomach." We celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary last month.

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I am a third grade teacher.

Most kids come in with notes or messages written by their mothers in their lunch sacks.

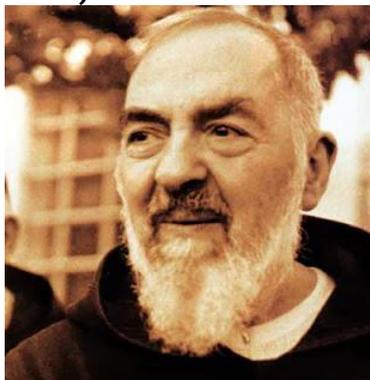
One little girl's dad left, and her mother abuses drugs. But her 12 year old brother never fails to write "I love you" on her brown paper bag.

He **GMH**.

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"Every life is a pile of good things and bad things. The good things don't always soften the bad things, but vice versa, the bad things don't always spoil the good things and make them unimportant," so says *The Eleventh Doctor* from British sci-fi show *Doctor Who*. Find hope and love by being a part of life and goodness. Show others who need to hear that there is goodness in the world through your words.

**St. Padre Pio's July 15, 1913 Letter: Devotion to guardian angel;
locutions; never cease to pray**



This letter comes from the book, *Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (Letters III)*.

J.M.J.D.F.C.

Dear daughter of Jesus,

May your heart always be the temple of the most holy Trinity; may Jesus increase in your soul the ardour of his love and may he always smile on you as on all souls whom he loves. May most holy Mary smile on you throughout all the events of your life, and abundantly replace the earthly mother you lack.

May your good guardian angel always watch over you; may he be your guide on the rugged path of life. May he always keep you in the grace of Jesus and sustain you with his hands so that you may not stumble on a stone. May he protect you under his wings from all the snares of the world, the devil and the flesh.

Have great devotion, Annita, to this good angel; how consoling it is to know that near us is a spirit who, from the cradle to the tomb, does not leave us even for an instant, not even when we dare to sin. And this heavenly spirit guides and protects us like a friend, a brother.

But it is extremely consoling to know that this angel prays without ceasing for us; offers to God all our good actions, our thoughts, our desires, if they are pure.

For pity's sake, don't forget this invisible companion, always present, always ready to listen to us and even more ready to console us. O delightful intimacy, O delightful company! If we could only understand it!

Always keep him present to your mind's eye. Often remember the presence of this angel; thank him, pray to him, always keep him good company. Open up yourself to him and confide your suffering to him. Have a constant fear of offending the purity of his gaze.

Know this and keep it well imprinted on your mind. He is so delicate, so sensitive. Turn to him in times of supreme anxiety and you will experience his beneficial help.

Never say you are alone in sustaining the battle against your enemies. Never say you have nobody to whom you can open up and confide. You would do this heavenly messenger a grave wrong.

As regards those interior locutions, don't worry but be calm. What you must avoid is that your heart becomes attached to these locutions. Don't give too much importance to them; show that you are indifferent. Neither despise love, nor long for such things. Always reply to these voices: "Jesus, if it is you who are speaking to me, let me see the facts and the effects of your words, that is, holy virtue in me."

Humble yourself before the Lord and confide in him, spending your energies by divine grace, in practicing the virtues, and then let grace work in you as God wishes. It is virtue which sanctifies the soul and not supernatural phenomena.

And don't confuse yourself by trying to understand which locutions come from God. If God is their author, one of the principle signs is that as soon as those voices are heard, they fill the soul with fear and confusion, but afterwards, they leave a divine peace. On the contrary, when the author of internal locutions is the devil, they begin with a false security, followed by agitation and an unspeakable malaise.

I do not doubt at all that God is the author of those locutions, but one must be very cautious because often, the enemy mixes a lot of his own work through them. But this must not frighten you; this is the trial to which even the greatest saints and most enlightened souls were subjected, and they were acceptable to the Lord. You must simply be careful never to believe in these locutions too easily, especially when they concern how you must behave and what you must do. But you must receive them and submit them to the judgment of him who directs you. Then you should resign yourself to his decision.

Therefore it is best to receive similar locutions with great caution and constant indifference. Behave in this way and everything will increase your merit before the Lord. Don't worry about your spiritual life; Jesus loves you and very much, and you try to correspond to his love by always advancing more and more in holiness before God and men.

Pray vocally also; as the time has not yet come to leave these prayers, and patiently and humbly bear the difficulties you experience in doing this. Be ready, also, to undergo distractions and aridity and you must by no means neglect prayer and meditation. It is the Lord who wishes to treat you in this manner for your spiritual advantage.

Forgive me if I end here. Only God knows how much it cost me to write this letter. I am very ill; pray a great deal that the Lord may desire to free me from this body soon. I bless you along with the excellent Francesca. May you live and die in the arms of Jesus.

F. Pio



Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.

St. Paul Ministry, Cypress, TX

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." –Hebrews 10:24-25

