

# #2—A Lying Tongue

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, [churchofgodbig sandy.com](http://churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 31, 2011–Jan. 1, 2012.

**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—One of my favorite sections of Scripture is Proverbs 6:16-19. The reason is that I can clearly identify seven traits that God hates and seven traits that God loves.

It is important to notice that the devil reflects the seven traits that God hates.

This week, let's look at some verses that mention "a lying tongue" (verse 17).

## **The father of lies**

When Jesus was involved in a verbal confrontation with some of His critics (John 8), they made a derogatory reference about His virgin birth (verse 41). He responded by talking about characteristics that they learned from their father figure (verse 44).

*John 8:44*—"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."

One of the greatest lies perpetuated in this world by the serpent is that there are no consequences for disobedience.

*Genesis 3:4*—"Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die.' "

This world is filled with lies and deception. The Bible is filled with verses that show that God hates a lying tongue.

## **Exception to the rule**

While it is important to understand God's clear instructions against lying, it is enlightening to notice one example of lying that is actually noted as an act of faith.

There are two clear examples of mentioning Rahab in a positive light.

- Hebrews 11:31.
- James 2:25.

Sometimes, believers have trouble accepting that Rahab lied. Yet she told the same lie in four different ways. Notice the following four statements from Joshua 2:4-5.

- “The men came, but I didn’t know from where.”
- “When it came time to close the gate at dark, the men left.”
- “I don’t know where the men were going.”
- “Pursue after them quickly. You can catch them.”

Rahab made those comments, even though she had hidden the men on her roof (verse 6).

### **Dangerous trait**

Although believers can recognize the godly reason for Rahab’s lie, they must also understand that the Bible warns us in many locations about the negative consequences of the vast majority of lying. Here are a few.

*Proverbs 10:18*—“Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.”

*Proverbs 12:19*—“The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.”

*Proverbs 12:22*—“Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.”

*Proverbs 17:4*—“An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.”

*Proverbs 19:22*—“What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar.”

*Proverbs 21:6*—“Getting treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.”

*Proverbs 26:28*—“A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin.”

*Colossians 3:9*—“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.”

*Revelation 21:8*—“. . . All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”