

# #6—A False Witness Who Speaks Lies

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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 discuss a "a false witness who speaks lies" (verse 19).

## **Listed twice on sin list**

As you noticed, the subject of lying appears twice in these seven things that God hates. (It was also mentioned in verse 17 as a lying tongue.)

Although the concept of lying is mentioned twice, there is a noticeable difference in the two specific items.

- A lying tongue could be interpreted as using lies in many situations for various reasons.
- A false witness could be interpreted as using lies in more-specific situations where a person gives a false testimony to harm another person.

The obvious scenario about a false witness is an official legal setting.

However, the principle would still apply where a person gives a false testimony in an unofficial legal setting. An unofficial setting might be parents questioning children about an event that happened in the family or employers questioning employees about an event that occurred on the job.

## **Corresponding consequence**

A Bible student understands God's view of a false witness when he reads the penalty placed upon false witnesses in the Old Testament administration of the law.

*Deuteronomy 19:19, 21*—"Then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you . . . Your

eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”

### **False witness against God**

Since we remember that the devil is the father of lies (John 8:44), we realize that he is the father of false accusations. Do you believe that the devil would have the audacity to be a false witness against God?

It is my perspective that when the devil was talking with Adam and Eve, he was a false witness against God—by subtly implying that God had an ulterior motive.

*Genesis 3:4-5*—“Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ ”

### **False witness against people**

If the devil is willing to be a false witness against God, he has no compunctions about being a false witness against people. And he is busy influencing people to do the same.

*Psalms 27:12*—“Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence.”

*Psalms 35:11*—“Fierce witnesses rise up; they ask me things that I do not know.”

*Matthew 26:59*—“Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death.”

*Luke 23:2*—“And they began to accuse Him, saying, ‘We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.’ ”

*Acts 6:11-13*—“Then they secretly induced men to say, ‘We have heard him [Stephen] speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.’ And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. They also set up false witnesses who said, ‘This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law.’ ”