

But what happened before that made him LIE so much now? Well let's say he stopped going to church that's one BIG FACTOR and problem, and then he got new friends ... BINGO!

The fact that he chose bad people to be his friends increases the risk of him doing more bad things, more sin and by what means? - By friends that have pressured him!

The Bible says that bad company corrupts good manners.

Once we get away with it we think it's perfectly fine to do it again.

People use all types of persuasion to make us do things. For example, Telling us straight up (do this, do that!...)

Or knowing that our weakness is to prove people wrong can help them to get us to do what they want.

Blackmail! Blackmail is a major tool. Never ever think that you can trust human beings if you can't trust yourself, once you go telling secrets people will use it against you ... (* if you don't tell her I'll tell her your secret and that thing I told you to tell her!

Okay!?" ...). Blackmail has become the main reason people do stupid things today and so has the next one...

Bribery... hmm... using money, sweets, chocolates or other earthly materials to make someone do what you can't be bothered to do or just plain don't want to do!

Like Job for instance, in the Bible, his wife pressured him to sin by cursing God and then dying after everything bad that happened but Job said NO! (A very strong word, but hard to say half the time)

He knew it was a test, he knew that if he stuck it through to the end then God would bless him, and God did exactly what he thought. This shows that obedience in the time of temptation and pressure helps us to stand strong in the Lord.

Another example is when some young hooligans thought it would be funny to tease and be rude to the man of God, Elisha, and in the end they got eaten by a bear! Yum!

The fact is that even when we are being pressured into things we need to stand strong. Following the crowd isn't the smartest thing to do. Once you know it's wrong step back. If you don't know still step back, you lose nothing, and you gain nothing. As Christians we should set examples, we should make role models of ourselves.

Friends, family, companions, partners EVERYBODY, use techniques to make someone do something, by using any tactics like begging, bribery, black mail - any of them, they can manipulate you, and also change tactics. Once they have you, you can't get out of it. You might be strolling in town and then all of a sudden you are walking around with a big group of girls you don't know just because your friend knows them. Once you walked from street to street and shop to shop, what could have been a simple little shopping and strolling turns into a BEEF because your friends have got on a hype and can't control themselves. They start having arguments that then turn into a fight, and you who are pretty much innocent can get in trouble for it.

We need Christian friends, true honest people that you can say will help you prosper instead of failing in school or in life overall - people that will help you to grow.

THINK WISELY, FOLLOW WISELY, CHOOSE WISELY AND GOD WILL HELP YOU WITH THE REST!

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***Faith is the
currency of heaven!***

AVOIDING TEMPTATION & BAD INFLUENCE!

(by Sarah)

You don't have to believe in God, or any belief for that matter, to see the truth behind all this.

All you need to do is look at today's teenagers, really. Pretty much every kid has forsaken the simplest morals, empathy and compassion. Everyone's goals are to become rich & famous, saving no means to achieve them.

People have become utterly superficial with no will to seek for compassion or emotion; instead they focus on "living in the moment" and fulfilling carnal desires.

Conforming as the dead fish that go with the flow, for the sake of not feeling lonesome.

Spiritual beliefs step in at this point.

Again, it's clear that the ones responsible for this are rich, influential people who want to manipulate us for many reasons.

We all know the ultimate goal of the enemy — the extinction of the Church of Christ. And one of his methods which he is using to try and achieve this is through making believers like you and me to sin.

We've seen and heard their vital priorities: sex, money, drugs, rebellion, violence... Simply put, this is sin and corruption of the mind & soul.

They have infected most of the present generation with sin and the will to rebel against the Almighty Lord via their 'day-by-day-less-subtle' agenda

God gave us free will, all evil in the world has been chosen by man.

Man is given the gift of having a choice of which path he'll walk.

God wants us to enter His kingdom but before we can, we have to take the earth test. Pretty much our life here on earth is tests to see if we can resist the temptations of the material world if so then we can enter heaven if not, well you know! God tests us to see if we are worthy enough to enter heaven. Are you?

CRIME AND VIOLENCE!

(by Eunice)

We all know the old saying that "two wrongs don't make a right" and no matter how somebody in life may offend you violence is not what you should be turning to in retaliation. Sure, revenge may be sweet, but that is not for us to take into our own hands as it is not our own responsibility. In the Bible God states that He will avenge our enemies for us, so don't worry about them getting away with whatever evil they have done instead hand your cares and burdens into the hands of the Lord because He will handle it in due time.

Never be offended by what people say or do. One you could be wrong about it and two although it hurts, you don't need to make it into breaking news by hurting one another or even killing if you're so angry about it. It says in the bible 'woe unto him that offends and unto him that takes offence or is offended'.

Matthew 6:14, 15 says: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses".

In the bible it says "do unto others what you would like others do unto you" - meaning treat someone like your own flesh and blood. whatever you do to others will come back on you like a boomerang! There's the old saying "what goes around comes around".

Treat everyone whether you know them or not like family members. Be kind and supporting whether you like them or not because God can then give you the love towards them.

You probably remember the story of Peter defending Jesus by cutting off somebody's ear. Well Jesus replied and said no, because whoever lives by the sword will die by the sword.

So in other words "what goes around comes around!" You might want to be a bit careful with your anger, it says "don't let the sun go down on your anger!" Make sure that whatever you do before the sun goes down i.e. before you go to sleep, ask God for forgiveness and also forgive the person you were angry with as well, because if you don't Satan can work on your anger, and make it into something you never wanted it to be, and you won't be able to really control yourself.

FAITHFULNESS!

(by Elijah)

I am writing about faithfulness, why we need it, how faith is involved, its importance and how we can receive it and retain it. Firstly, I have broken the key word of this article, faith, down into what each letter stands for...

Friendship - in life it is very important that you choose the friends who you surround yourselves with very carefully and you make such decisions wisely. You need friends who are trustworthy and fear God.

Attentiveness - we should always be attentive to the word of God and live a life full of God's guidance.

Inspiration - to live this life we should be inspired by the word of God.

Thankfulness - we should always be thankful for what the Lord God has given us in life and continues to give us in life (e.g. food, shelter, loving parents and lots more).

Honesty - be honest in all things you do in life. Honesty is the best policy.

We see in the Bible it is stated clearly the reason why we need faith because without it we cannot please God. Therefore, faith is obviously a vitally needed part of the believer's life and so the Bible also tells us how we can get it. It says in Romans 10:17 that faith cometh by hearing and hearing the word of God. This means that we need to have our ears tuned into God's word and be in the right place at the right time to hear it too, such as in a church.

Here is a short prayer that you can say in asking God to help you with faithfulness:

I pray that your faithfulness oh Lord, will continually grow strong in me everyday that I am alive. I pray that my faithfulness will not only strengthen me but every one that I touch. Inspire others to greater faithfulness too. Amen.

PEER PRESSURE!

(by Eunice)

Peer pressure, normally associated with youths in school refers to influence exerted by a peer group encouraging someone to change his or her attitude, values or behaviour in order to conform to the group.

Sounds a bit complicated huh? Well let's put it in a way children can understand ... peer pressure is a way of getting someone to do something by using smart techniques that are hidden under lies and emotions.

Someone might be nice to you for one week whilst you do all their dirty work; and the next they suddenly hate you and the only way they have got you to do it is by pressuring (not being obvious about it) you slowly over time so that you get to the point where you trust them so much that you'd do anything for them.

One trick youths use is 'Easy get away...'

It was a normal day for Johnny. He was at home chilling with a few friends, suddenly a cigarette pops out of his pocket and all of a sudden those lips of his that he uses for praising and worshipping God were suddenly wrapped around a piece of paper with green stinky stuff in.

His mum is in the room and straight away asks "Johnny, do I smell smoke?"

Johnny replies quickly "well mum you have been on steroids, they are probably doing something to your sight and hearing, pff! Just relax mum I can't smell anything, can you guys?"

"Nah!" - "no..." "Not me..." replied his mates.

Mum says "you're probably right Johnny... I don't know what to do with myself lately... thanks, bye boys."

"Bye Mrs Wesleton" reply the boys in chorus.

And another quick getaway for Johnny. Now I don't know whether Johnny is always going to be bailed out like that by his friends but I know that once he's in the game it's always harder to get back out, there will be tricks and temptations and hard decisions to be taken before he can get to where he was before.

Let's see what he did there! Let's make a list:

He lied, He lied

And he lied some more...