



Commandments 1-4: Loving God.

- No other gods
- No idols
- Honouring God's name.
- Practicing Sabbath rest

Commandments 6-10: Loving Others.

- Honouring parents
- Murder
- Adultery
- Stealing
- False Testimony
- Coveting



This Week:

The Ninth Word of Grace:

“Do not speak falsely about your neighbour.”

The Issue: Alternative Facts!

- Taking what you know is not true about someone, and spreading it.

³⁶“You will have to give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word you have spoken. ³⁷The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.”

Jesus – Matthew 12

This Week:

The Ninth Word of Grace:

“Do not speak falsely about your neighbour.”

Note: Lying begins at the very beginning of God’s story (Genesis 3-4) and is firmly imbedded in our broken, human condition.

- Satan introduced it.

“Did God really say ...?”

- Man & Woman embraced it.
- We continue to lie ... easily.

“Proficiency at lying may be the best measure of advancement, with primates much more adept at it than other mammals, and human beings the most masterful deceivers on the planet.”

American Association for the
Advancement of Science.

Lying: Why do we do it?

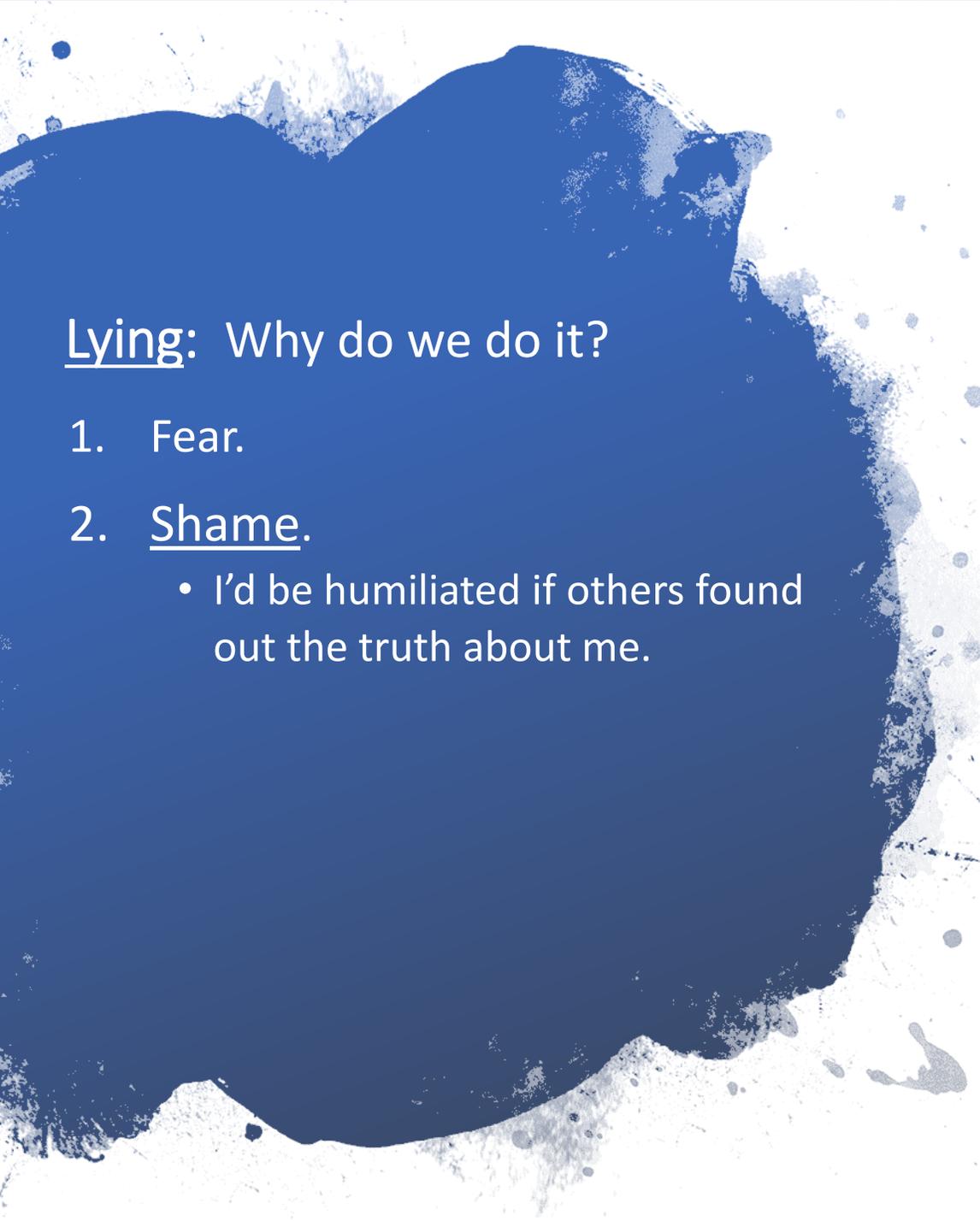
1. Fear.

- I'm afraid of the consequences of telling the truth.

⁸ When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

Genesis 3



Lying: Why do we do it?

1. Fear.

2. Shame.

- I'd be humiliated if others found out the truth about me.

⁶ The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷ At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves ...

¹¹ “Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

Genesis 3

Lying: Why do we do it?

1. Fear.
2. Shame.
3. Embarrassment.
 - I need to “save face” or avoid offending someone.

11 “Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

12 The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

13 Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?”

“The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

Genesis 3

Lying: Why do we do it?

1. Fear.
2. Shame.
3. Embarrassment.
4. Self-gain.
 - Lying will get me ahead in life.

5 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. **2** With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ... **4** You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

Acts 5

Lying: Why do we do it?

1. Fear.
2. Shame.
3. Embarrassment.
4. Self-gain.
5. Culture.
 - Everyone lies – I won't survive unless I lie.

⁷ About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

⁹ Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

¹⁰ At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Acts 5

Lying: Why do we do it?

1. Fear.
2. Shame.
3. Embarrassment.
4. Self-gain.
5. Culture.
6. Sheer-hatred.
 - I intend to destroy someone.

You can have almost everything taken from you, but if you are left with your character and your integrity, you still have the foundation to build life again.

- *God detests lying lips, but he delights in those who are truthful. (Proverbs 12:2)*
- *Better a poor person whose walk is blameless, than a fool whose lips are perverse. (Proverbs 19:1)*

Lying: How do we do it?

1. Slander.

- I deliberately lie about someone's character or conduct.

He who conceals their hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

Proverbs 10:18

Slander is a sin to which the religious are particularly susceptible. Often, when Christians learn to shed the obvious “big” sins, they become vulnerable to dishing out pious slander. While careful to avoid adultery, drunkenness or stealing, they indulge & delight in assaulting the character of others.

R.W. Hughes

Lying: How do we do it?

1. Slander.
2. Gossip.
 - retelling information about someone that may or may not be true.

Gossip is when you say things behind someone's back that you would never say to their face.

Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.

Proverbs 26:20

A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang around with chatterers.

Proverbs 20:19

Lying: How do we do it?

1. Slander.
2. Gossip.
3. Flattery.
 - saying nice things to someone, not because you mean it, but because it's expedient to do so.

Flattery is when you say things to someone's face that you would never say behind their back.

*My enemies cannot speak a truthful word;
Their deepest desire is to destroy others.
Their talk is foul – like the stench of an open
grave.
Their tongues are filled with flattery.*

Psalm 5:9

Lying: How do we do it?

1. Slander.
2. Gossip.
3. Flattery.
4. Exaggeration.
 - embellishing the truth positively *or* negatively.

I did an interview wherein I described myself as a 'teetotal Christian,' which was an exaggeration, although I do like tea and Christ.

Moby

Lying: How do we do it?

1. Slander.
2. Gossip.
3. Flattery.
4. Exaggeration.
5. Carelessness.
 - Being loose with the truth, and not checking on the facts.

Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted in important matters.

Albert Einstein

Lying: How do we do it?

1. Slander.
2. Gossip.
3. Flattery.
4. Exaggeration.
5. Carelessness.
6. Contextual Lying.
 - speaking truth out of context, in order to deceive and wound.

Lying: How do we do it?

1. Slander.
2. Gossip.
3. Flattery.
4. Exaggeration.
5. Carelessness.
6. Contextual Lying.
7. Insinuation.
 - *“Do you really believe ...”*

Lying: How do we do it?

1. Slander.
2. Gossip.
3. Flattery.
4. Exaggeration.
5. Carelessness.
6. Contextual Lying.
7. Insinuation.
8. Silence.
 - deliberately failing to correct a known untruth.

We justify these easily ... and many don't sound so bad, until they happen to us!

Problem: How do you defend yourself against lies & half-truths?

What happens when we lie?

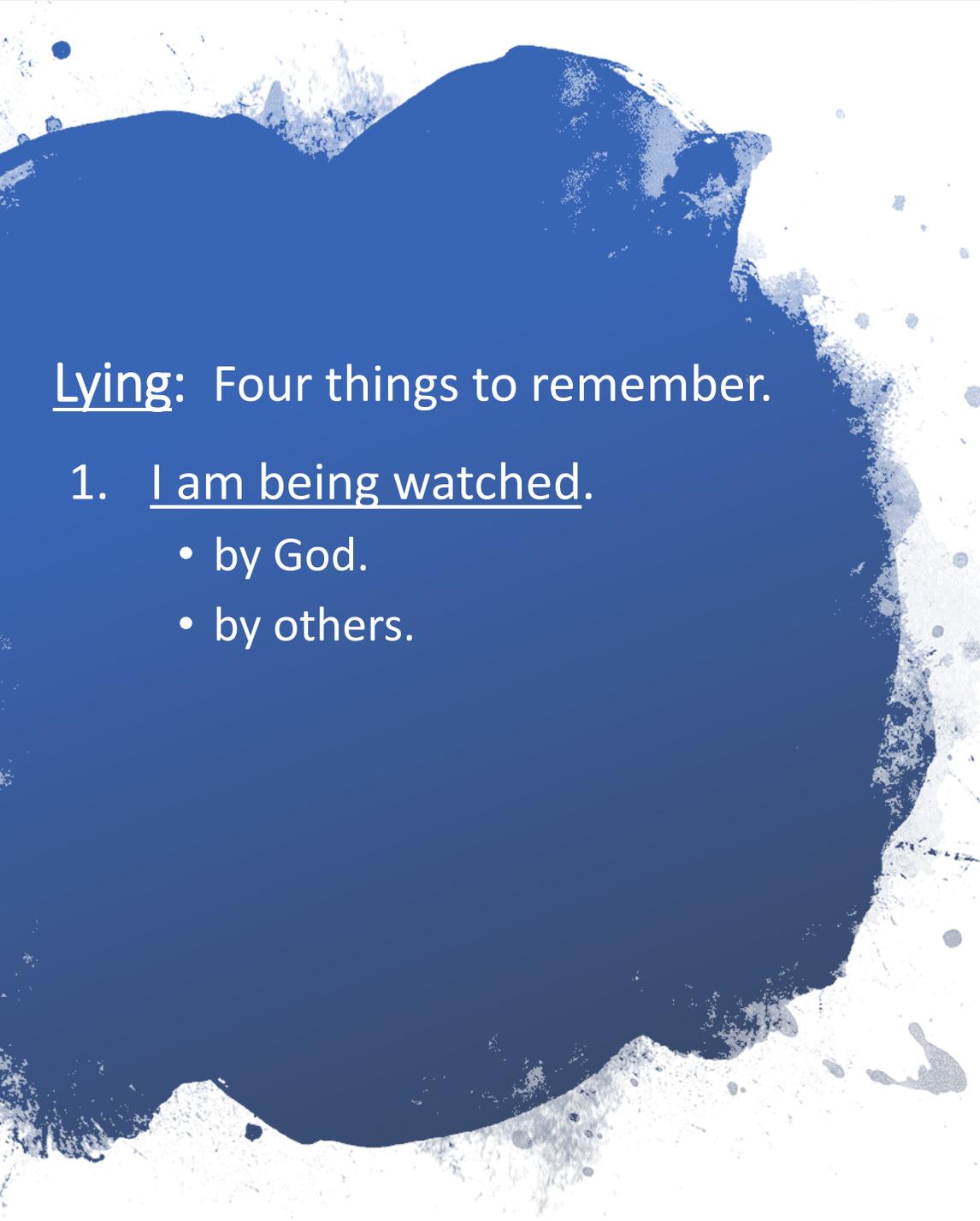
- trust is broken.
- love is replaced by betrayal.
- relationships are destroyed.

Instead of friendship, we are left with estrangement & character assassination.



44 "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Jesus - John 8



Lying: Four things to remember.

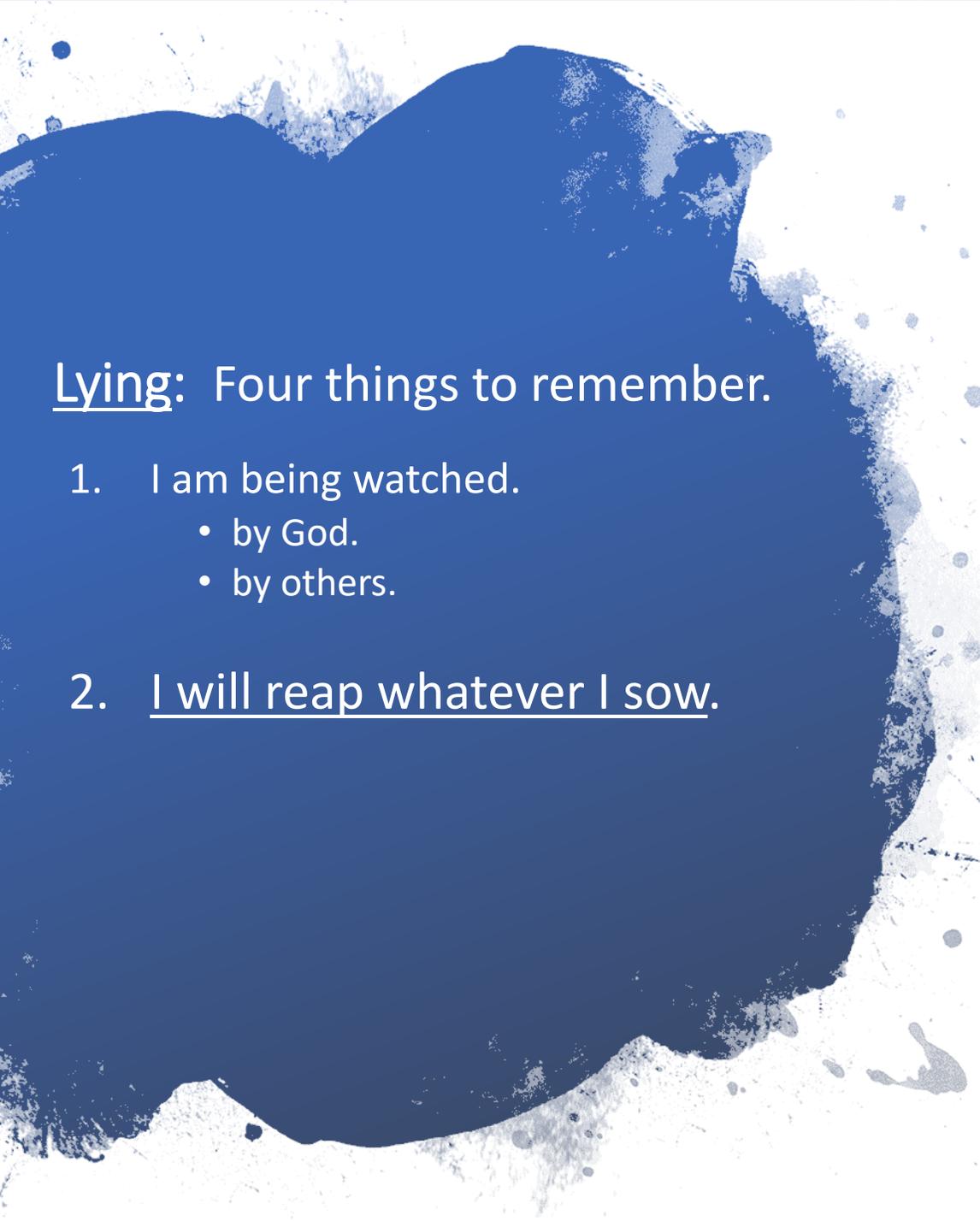
1. I am being watched.

- by God.
- by others.

*God's eyes are on the way of men & women;
He sees their every step.*

*There is no dark place, no deep shadow,
where evildoers can hide.*

Job 34:21-22



Lying: Four things to remember.

1. I am being watched.

- by God.
- by others.

2. I will reap whatever I sow.

Do not be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, they will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others – ignoring God – harvests a crop of weeds. All they'll have to show for their life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in them, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.

Galatians 6:7-8

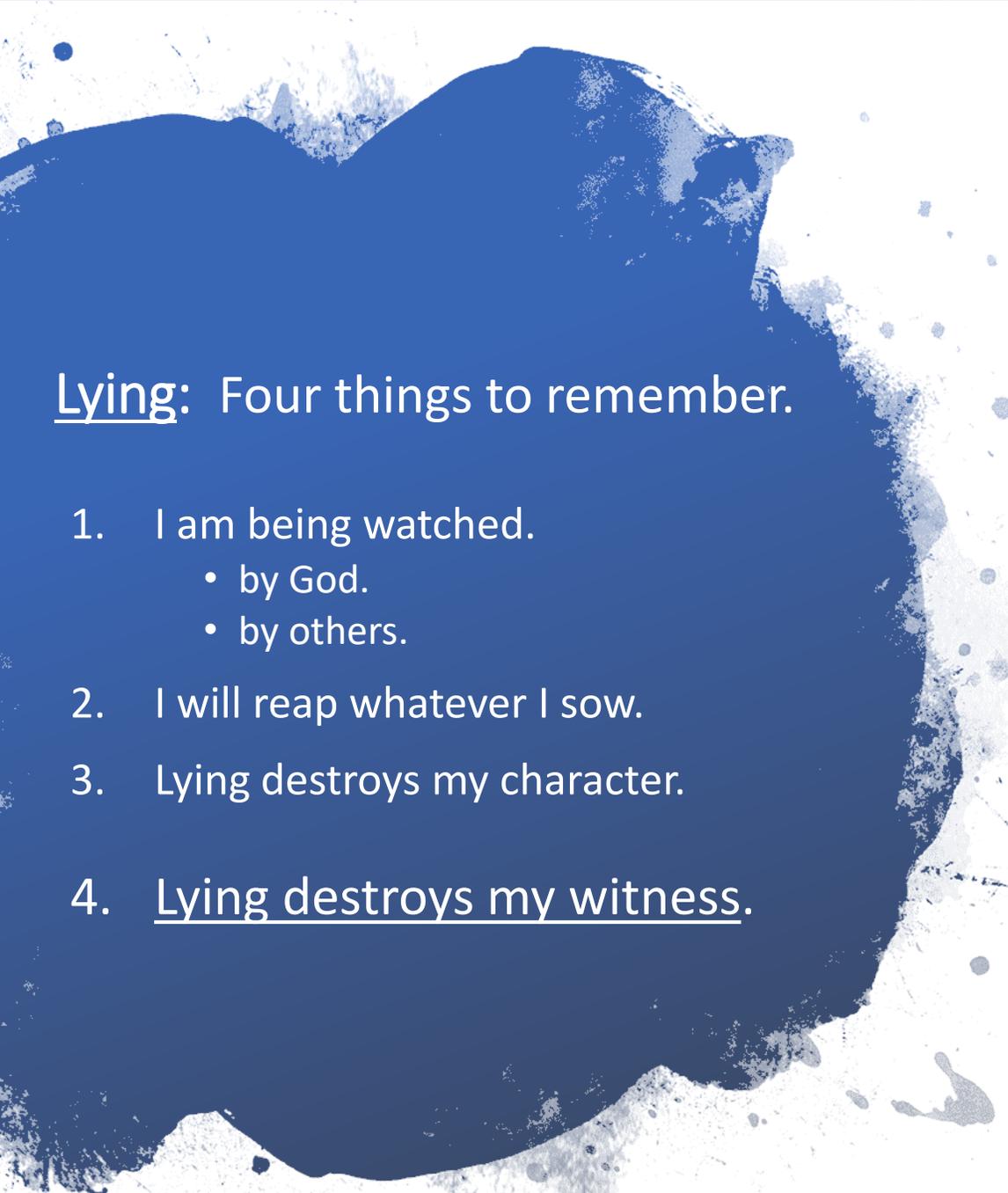
Question: What are you sowing with your life?

Lying: Four things to remember.

1. I am being watched.
 - by God.
 - by others.
2. I will reap whatever I sow.
3. Lying destroys my character.
 - I become the opposite of God, who is defined by truth.

¹⁸ God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. ¹⁹ This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.

Hebrews 6



Lying: Four things to remember.

1. I am being watched.
 - by God.
 - by others.
2. I will reap whatever I sow.
3. Lying destroys my character.
4. Lying destroys my witness.

People believe that Christians are supposed to be honest people, who speak well of others at all times ... but then, they see something else.

Lying: The Solution.

... truth wrapped in love.

Key Question: Do I love this person enough to tell them the truth?

If “Yes”: Speak the truth in a way that demonstrates your love for them.

***4** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Ephesians 4

Lying: The Solution.

... truth wrapped in love.

Key Question: Do I love this person enough to tell them the truth?

If “No”: Invoke the “Thumper Rule”.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4



*An honest answer
is like a kiss of friendship.*

Proverbs 24:26