

# Veracity

Reflections  
by the Pond

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**“But let  
your  
statement  
be, ‘Yes,  
yes’ or  
‘No, no’;  
anything  
beyond  
these is of  
evil.”**

*Matthew 5:37*



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VERACITY IS A RARE COMMODITY THESE DAYS.

- The drain kit we purchased for our new bathtub included screws that began to rust within days of the tub's first use. Now why would a manufacturer use screws that would rust in something perpetually around water?
- A service offered a free trial period, yet, after I had told them no, and canceled, a charge showed up on our credit card bill—not just for one month, but for two!
- A local roofing company advertised “prompt, courteous estimates”, yet I had a terrible time getting someone to come out and give us a bid. Then after he finally looked over the job, he never sent me an estimate.
- And, of course, need we itemize the myriad falsities, exaggerations, misleading statements and outright lies that pour forth from the mouths of those serving in our nation's capital—no less so than during this recent debt fiasco?



We live in a time in which integrity, honor, reliability and truthfulness are no longer considered to be worthwhile aspirations. For our own necessary protection we can no longer take at face value what the lawyer, the politician, the salesclerk, and yes, sometimes even the preacher, say.

Some people, over the years, have questioned why my wife and I chose, twenty years ago, to live out away from people, out where our nearest neighbors are the beasts of the field, and the view is not of other houses but of trees and rolling hillsides.

One reason (among several) Linda and I live in the country is because here we enjoy an environment that *encourages* the discovery of truth—God's timeless truth—rather than presenting an obstacle to it. Here our communion with the Lord is not clouded by the smog of “civilized” society.

In this society, even Christians can become so inured to deceit that it becomes a too-comfortable companion.

It is for this reason the Lord should be every believer's closest companion. He *can* be trusted. He will never lie. He will never represent Himself as anything other than what He precisely is—no more, no less. He never changes, never leads us astray, never says one thing then does another. And as our nearest companion, His veracity becomes our model.

For men swear by one greater *than themselves*, and with them an oath *given* as confirmation is an end of every dispute. In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast...

*Hebrews 6:16-19a*

During a time in which deceit has become the norm, our soul and our spirit find firm, trustworthy footing on the veracity of God's word and God's life.



Upon God's faithfulness rests our whole hope of future blessedness. Only as He is faithful will His covenants stand and His promises be honored. Only as we have complete assurance that He is faithful may we live in peace and look forward with assurance to the life to come. The tempted, the anxious, the fearful, the discouraged may all find new hope and good cheer in the knowledge that our Heavenly Father is faithful. He will ever be true to His pledged word.

A. W. Tozer

