

Be a Person of Integrity- Honesty

by Francis Chan

Honesty is a choice that requires us to be willing to be transparent and accountable to others, and it has the power to set us free, build trust, and glorify God.

Duration: 40:31

Scripture: Acts 5:1

Topics: "Personal Integrity", "Spiritual Freedom"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of honesty and dependence on God, highlighting the negative impact of deception and the freedom that comes from confessing and seeking forgiveness. The speaker shares personal experiences and challenges the congregation to pray for a life of truthfulness and reliance on God, rather than seeking wealth or comfort. The message encourages introspection, confession, and a deeper relationship with God.

Transcript

So we just sang that song I found a love greater than life itself I I want you to think about that phrase. I mean, can you Because I know you all love this relationship with Jesus Christ And I know you're here because you enjoy this knowledge of God and the salvation He brings but you know Think about those words. I I found a love that's greater than life itself Like like God's love is this treasure that is so great that everything else pales in comparison And I hope you're you're not here because you're hoping that this Jesus will get you something, you know It's more this Jesus that you found makes everything else seem pretty obsolete It's this love that's better than anything else you can find in this life And I and I hope you really believe that I hope you mean that as we sing that song we think it through um Before I get to my message.

There's a few things. I want to clarify from uh previous messages I seem to do this like every two or three weeks right kind of apologize for the last two weeks, um But let me just clarify a couple of things that I said Um a couple weeks ago I I read an email from a 65 year old woman and I referred to her as elderly And I got a lot of emails after that saying 65 is not elderly anymore because now life expectancy is older And so 65 is considered middle age still So if you want to believe that that's great and uh I'll go with it because that makes me an adolescent again and uh, we'll we'll head with that. Um On another note That was that wasn't a real good apology.

Was it? Um another note, um On a more serious note last week I gave a message it's pretty heavy and uh some people had a had issue with it and questioned some of the things that I said and I I want to I want to clarify some things and I know that some of the things I said last week were unfamiliar But that does not make it unbiblical Okay Just because you're not used to hearing it a certain way and people don't normally say it like that It doesn't make it unbiblical. In fact as I look back at my notes and look at all the passages I go You know what? That was absolutely biblical In fact, and this is this whole idea of when someone is in that type of gross sin, you know and calling himself a christian That do we have the right to ask them not to come? well first corinthians 5 Remember the passages out of first corinthians 6 that we taught if you turn back to first corinthians 5 and how he closes the chapter In first corinthians 5 i'm going to put it on the screen starting in verse 11 Paul says this now i'm writing to you that you must must Not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother But is sexually immoral or greedy an idolater or a slanderer a drunkard or a swindler with such a man Do not even eat What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside Expel the wicked man from among you Okay, now that's not a passage you hear taught very often It's not a passage that believers bring up and for that reason sometimes we have things backwards I mean it says at the end there He says, you know what business of it of mine is to judge those outside the church. Are you not to judge those inside? And I believe christians have this backwards all over the place Where we judge those outside in the outside of this room we judge the world and that is so wrong The bible tells us not to do that.

I mean you're christians all the time going Oh those evil unbelievers those pagans and it's like, you know, leave them alone What the bible says is what we ought to be do is looking looking inside this room And judging one another those of us who call call ourselves believers He says, you know if there are people who are in this room and they call themselves believers But they're living that type of immoral lifestyle or that greedy lifestyle or that that wicked like deceiving what? He says, you know, don't even eat with those people In fact, he says expel the wicked man from among you So if anything last week, maybe I was too gentle if anything With this issue because the bible makes us a command and it says to expel the wicked man from among you So I guess what i'm saying is I don't take back Anything that I said last week. In fact, I put an exclamation point on it and say, you know what that it's very biblical But and be careful because we hear so many messages in the world And every once in a while you'll hear something that's so unique, but it's clearly in scripture Don't throw it out of your mind or say that it's wrong just because it doesn't feel like what you normally hear Check it out. Study the word of god.

And if you disagree with something then point it out in scripture But so often we can just think that something's wrong because we haven't heard it that way before And yet it's so clearly biblical. Does that make sense? Okay, and then uh Thank you, tom Um, it's uh Let me go to another topic we're just kind of jumping from thing to thing, uh The land over on tiara hoda, um, just to make sure you understand where we're at with that we turned in a Completed application about uh, well, we did it a year ago and then they asked for more things We we've gone back and forth and then we gave the the final copy about three months ago and uh Once we turn in the application the county has 30 working days to respond Um after those 30 days were over they asked if they could have an extension because they weren't done yet So we gave them a 30-day extension. I mean, you really can't say no, but you know, what are you gonna say? So, uh, we give them another 30 days because that's what they asked for So we gave them another 30 working days after those 30 working days were over They asked for another extension of another 15 days.

And so that was just this week. They asked for another extension That's why we still don't know about the property. And so it's it's a good sign actually that uh That they're still asking for things and they're still

looking into it.

Um We kind of have a rough idea of what they're going to ask which is a little bit more information which is Again a positive thing, but it's not a yes or no still so that's where we stand on that last week I also told you that um We had a problem with the loan that we were going to get if you remember last week was a date we were supposed to close escrow, but uh Luck I shouldn't say luckily in god's providence Um, the seller actually moved it back a month, which was great because the lender Threw in a contingency That we couldn't meet Um, and so we were kind of in trouble last week So good thing it didn't close but the contingency was they said you need to have more elders Leading the church you need to have more you need to have more unpaid elders than paid ones Okay, so we have these leaders of the church and certain ones are pastors on staff And then others are volunteer elders and a couple of them were lay elders were volunteer elders And then we thought you know, we could really use them on staff and so we hired them So now there are more that are paid than unpaid And they gave us this contingency on the last week saying you've got to have more That are unpaid and we'll give you a year to accomplish that And we thought well, that's that's difficult because that means we have to get three more elders And if any of them we want on staff, we can't do that Um, so it just kind of put a weird limitation on our leadership And so we we as elders we talked about it briefly as far as well There's a lot of things we can do to get around this um That that are pretty obvious. We could we could take a couple of the paid elders and say well, we'll make you junior elders and uh, you know and and take you off the board, but you can still do everything we could uh, we could um, bring a couple of people on and go through this year process that they've asked us to but uh, Knowing that we could pay off the loan within a year And so then we don't even have to deal with it by the time the year comes to an end And I and and all these things we said, you know, there's so many ways around this and none of them are technically lying But there's just deception It's just it's deceptive and there's even even a hint of it and all the elders just clearly agreed You know, we're not going to go down that road We'll need to find someone else to take it alone from the problem is is who's going to give you a five million dollar loan in three weeks um That's not real easy. And so we we're shopping around looking at different things and just doing our due diligence And we asked that credit union saying man, there's no way around this.

No, no way around it and I wrote him a letter and I explained to them our situation. I just emailed them and said look Here's the deal is we've been trying so hard for 14 years to show integrity Financially with leadership being up front with everything if we do this we can get around your contingency But it's a lack of integrity on our part to do so And I just simply asked is there a way We can finish, you know complete this loan and as both maintain our integrity And they kind of shot it up the ladder and I guess one of the top guys started doing some research on cornerstone and ended up writing a letter down to the little people and uh Telling them that you know, i've researched cornerstone and their church They talked about what we were involved in he found out that you know what we gave the children's hunger fund world impact And around the world he looked at our giving statements throughout the years And he told them you know what these are the types of people we want to partner with make it happen And so uh, yeah, it's very cool Yeah But it was so cool even even working through that process to sit on an elder board and all of us go okay We're going to maintain our integrity, but understand what this means We could lose the property We could lose everything um, because we don't know how we're going to get this loan in three weeks and And yet it was just so cool to sit there and there was just no question saying you know what that You can't compromise out of fear. You got to just lay it out and then let the chips fall That's a bad expression, huh? That's like gambling which we as elders don't do.

Um, no, but it's this whole uh, it's this whole idea Yeah, what other expression is it let the chips fall where they may you know, it's just this whole idea of You know, you just you got to just be honest. You got to just lay it out there and suffer the consequences But you got to trust that you know what? God's not going to bless us for being deceptive Like when has that ever happened when he's ever blessed someone because they were deceptive There are times when he blessed people in spite of their deception But uh, you know, it's always best to just say you know what here it is Let's just lay it out and we lose it. We lose it.

But at least we maintain our integrity Um, and I want to talk about that a little bit tonight um after we experienced that on monday, I thought you know, I I feel like it's something that we all struggle with because there's times in life when we need to make decisions And we know it would be so easy just to stretch the truth a tiny bit I mean, it's not even technically lying, you know, you can even say the right words and everything else And uh, and we're so tempted to do that because it seems like would make life easier And it also seems like everyone's doing it, right? I mean everyone lies And so what's the big deal? And yet like we talked about last week just because everyone's doing it just because it's popular doesn't mean that god hates it less In fact, it says in proverbs 12 verse 22 It says the lord detests Lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful Okay, the lord detests remember we talked about how last week no not all sins are the same All sins do condemn but the bible does not teach that all sins are the same There are certain things that god seems to emphasize Um, and we talked about immorality last week and the way he focuses on this week I want to talk about honesty because it says that the lord hates this he detests Lips that speak evil or deception And he delights in men who are truthful And as we talk about honesty, you know, I I struggled with this because i'm putting together this message, right? I'm, looking up all these verses on Honesty deception on and on and on and I thought to myself. Okay, there are people in this room who lie so much I mean so much like it just kind of comes out your mouth. You can't even control it.

You just lie And I was talking to a girl in my office a couple weeks ago, and I finally had to stop and I go You know what? Do you think you could is it like can you even tell the truth? Like like, you know because there's certain people you get to a point it's like do you ever get concerned I ask Do you ever get concerned about yourself like you're not even able to tell the truth? Because she had already been caught in multiple huge lies And I go let's look through these things And do you ever get concerned that you've been lying so long? Like it's such a pattern that if I were to ask you to look me in the eyes and tell me the truth right now You're not even sure you could tell the truth because you've been so used to deceiving people and lying Never meet people like that Where you just go man, I don't know if he or she has the ability to tell the truth And I thought okay. So so what am I going to do? I'm going to preach a sermon on lying Is that really going to change anyone? I mean because that's a major thing if someone's had this Pattern of deception and there are many of you in this room that have held things You know in secret for so long. Am I really going to give a sermon where you go? Okay Here it is.

Here's what i've really done. Here's who I really am because man you're protecting some serious things There are some things you are so embarrassed of and you've worked so hard to deceive people for years I was thinking man the last thing I want because I can put together a sermon on online I don't i'm not worried about that and I knew I could put together a sermon where you walk out the room go Wow, that was a good sermon online But that's not the goal It's where you go. Ooh, that was a good sermon, you know, I mean the goal is that we would come clean Because here's the thing.

Okay, i've been there I I I I Man, I was a liar my whole life, you know, just just growing up. It's all my brother's fault. He um He was so good at lying and I he's my big brother and he taught me and uh However, you know, he'd get bad grades, right and he always would shoot for an f Because the f you can

change to a b And he was saying the d's and c's you really can't change because if I get an f it's an automatic b I just you know add a couple of squiggles and and I thought wow, that's so cool.

And uh, but but I remember This how good he was Or how bad he was kids. Don't be like him. He uh When we were juniors when he was a junior in high school He asked my mom if he could buy a car And my mom said no And he bought one anyways and parked it around the corner And every day we'd go.

Yeah, we're walking to school. We'd walk around the corner and get in his car And uh and drive to school and we did this for a year A year. I thought wow, we had a car for a year She didn't know and it was cool because on rainy days she would let us take the family car to school And so we'd drive around the corner and my brother would jump in his car and let me drive the family car I was like 13 14 years old I mean, this is this so this is the way I grew up.

It was like yeah I was the coolest freshman man, you know, I got to school take all my friends to lunch everything and uh, And I remember this one time though, I totally remember like we went to school, you know in his car And then midway through the day it started raining And so we're driving home and my mom was coming to the school to pick us up Because it was raining and so we're driving this way and she's coming right at us And I go paul. It's mom and he goes duck Oh, I still remember that we're just down for a few seconds I go. I think she's fast.

I think she's passing, you know, and then he drives around We go back to the school parking lot and start walking in the rain and go. Oh, hey mom, you know I mean that's So it was just this deception, right? And and it was just lie after lie after lie and oh man, I had to go on and on About my my deceptive lifestyle You know and and and I was thinking, you know Many of us grow up. It's weird how lying just comes so naturally, right? I mean as a little kid, you know, you've seen your little kids holding a marker, right? And there's drawings all around the wall and going I didn't do it.

I didn't do it, you know And and it's just the first thing out of their mouth is just this lie And I was thinking okay. What what changed? I mean at what point did it did it just It wasn't a sermon No one ever preached a sermon on honesty that actually made me change And so it's kind of frustrating because i'm looking at this and i'm going man There's many people in there that have been lying for years and years and years. What was it that changes a person? What what gets them from this path of deception to to then go? You know what? I'm gonna i'm gonna pursue the truth pursue the truth and i'm not saying that I never lie I You know You know, but but it's like you first you get rid of these big lies, right? And then you realize oh, there's still some more deception in there.

Ah, there's still some deception But every time you just get cleaner and cleaner and cleaner And and and still all throughout your life It seems like there's still a little bit of deception a little bit of deception But less and less and less until the bible says we get to this point of maturity and completeness But what puts a person on that road? And I and I felt pretty helpless because I thought a sermon's not going to pull it off tonight by any stretch of the imagination and so Honestly, I didn't study a ton this week Because paul says uh in first corinthians, he says um He talked about how he didn't come to the corinthians with eloquence or superior wisdom, but he came with a demonstration of power And I was looking at that passage i'm thinking man when paul went to a place He just spoke with power It wasn't a carefully crafted sermon. He just came powerfully with a demonstration of the spirit And so every time I was going to study I just said, you know, i'm going to pray instead this week I'm, just going to pray that god does something That it's just something supernatural something. I can't explain just the power that gets you to change And sets you on

that road Because no one can talk someone else into truth Yeah, you know I was speaking at this, uh conference for pastors last week and I and I was telling them I go You know, sometimes I feel like our church services In our church services we can sound more like the prophets of baal than like elijah I remember a story in first queen first kings 19 with uh 18 or 19 where it talks about how There were the prophets of baal and elijah challenges them They're on mount carmel and they have this sacrifice on this on this on this top top of this mountain and they go You know what? Why don't you guys get your god to uh, why don't you get baal to light that thing on fire? And so the prophets of baal they start jumping up and down hundreds of them screaming cutting each other you know just working themselves into a frenzy and nothing really happened, but They had a good time, you know, they're screaming they're shouting then afterwards elijah just prays quietly And just says god Do your thing And then fire comes out of heaven and consumes that sacrifice and everyone is just left going no way That was awesome And I I just questioned these pastors like what do our services feel like? Don't you feel like a lot of times we can just jump up and down and you know and and enjoy each other's company.

Yeah Yeah But did anything happen that was supernatural did god active fire really come down into this room? And I just started praying for that I just started praying saying god, you know I can't I can't make anyone stop lying Would you do something supernatural? and I was thinking about this idea of deception, do you realize that There's only one time In the new testament when god strikes someone dead He did all the time in the old testament, but new testament and it's a shorter span in the new testament, you know It's just it's just a few years You know, whereas the old testament spans over thousands of years in the new testament We're just talking about you know, 80 80 90 years something like that And there's only one instance when he struck someone dead And that was in the early church in acts chapter 5 with ananias and sapphira And if you remember the story ananias and sapphira There were a couple that that sold some property and gave it to the church gave the money to the church But they held back some of it and they lied about it, which which was dumb because From what we understand in the passage, they didn't even have to give the money But there was just some sort of proud it was like this. It was really a white lie If anything because they're going you know what here's all the money I mean, it was a good thing that they did they sold their land and gave the money to the church It's just when peter says is that all of it? They go. Yeah.

Yeah, it was all of it and they really held back some And it says in acts chapter 5 The story says in verse 3 it says then peter said to ananias So he says to the man because he came alone. He says 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 then the next verse Didn't it belong to you before it was sold and after it was sold wasn't the money at your disposal? So I say you see he says look didn't didn't the land belong to you? And after you sold it you could have done whatever you wanted with the money. Just be honest with it So he says what made you think of doing such a thing you have not lied to men But to god and then verse 5 it says when ananias heard this he fell down and died And great fear seized all who heard what had happened To me I go man, that's an understatement great fear sees the church.

I mean, can you imagine? And then right after that happened his wife comes in and they ask her. Hey, did you give us all of the money? And she says yes And peter says you know what the same people that just carried out your husband They're going to carry you out also and she falls over and dies Okay, i'm reading this and i'm going see god that would work Okay, you know I mean, can you imagine? I mean it says great fear sees the church And i'm going man. Are you kidding me? Of course it did and I look at a passage like that and I think wow Could you imagine? Could you imagine if something like that happened If I if I if I

asked uh, if I asked phil something over there I go Hey, man, just tell me the truth right now and he lied to me and I knew it and I said phil You're stretching the truth And he just fell over I mean right now And then paula tries to defend him goes.

No, really really and she falls over too I mean, can you imagine how that you process that for a week you come back next week and I ask someone else a question Can you imagine what you would think inside like? Okay, let me think 100 truth 100 truth. I saw what happened to those last two You know, I just think okay. That's the power of god, right? now the truth is is There are times when god makes us tell the truth Right where he exposes us There are times like with david where he sends a prophet and just says look you're lying When nathan came to him But isn't it so much better? When nothing external happens like that And instead of being exposed you confess To me, that's one of the most beautiful things that can happen I I love that I love that Don't you love it? When someone wasn't caught But instead they just come out and say Here's the truth about me I'm praying for that In fact, I I want you to pray about that I would would you just bow your heads right now.

I just want to give god some some room Some time In fact right now, would you just pray to god and ask him? Ask him to do something supernatural in this room in everyone's heart That he would convict everyone in this room Of the lies in their life just just pray for everyone right now God, would you cleanse our businesses? of slight deception and trust Help us to trust that you know what? It's just always best to be absolutely honest help us to trust that really believe that Father, would you cleanse our families? of deception Husbands and wives that are holding things from each other parents and kids That are guilty They're just deceiving each other And god just all of our friendships that are based upon lies father. May you just cleanse us of those things Help us to trust that coming clean is going to just make everything so much better because you are god in jesus name amen I I want to um I just want to share one last passage with you that uh That that hit me the most when I was looking at these passages and it's in proverbs chapter 30 Proverbs chapter 30 starting in verse 7. He says this Okay, look at this phrase and then think about how you would complete this Sentence because he says this in proverbs 30 verse 7 two things. I ask of you lord Or I ask of you oh lord do not refuse me before I die Okay, if you had to complete that Okay, if you were writing this proverb and you said okay god here's two things I want before I die Please just these two things not being greedy.

I just want these two things before I die How would you complete that Now look what this prophet what this guy says Keep falsehood and lies far from me Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread Isn't that crazy Okay, these are the two things he's saying god Just if I could have anything these two things don't deny me these two things and the first thing he says is keep falsehood and lies far from me He goes if there's one thing I could have I want to be an honest person. So just keep the lie I mean, that's his greatest prayer It shows you something about his heart Here we are reading in the wisdom literature. These are these are from the wisest people who have ever lived This is from agur.

He says, you know what just keep these falsehood and lies for I just want to be truthful I want to be a truthful person. That's so important to me So keep falsehood and lies far from me But then the other thing he prays for he goes and and the other thing is give me neither poverty nor Riches, but give me only my daily bread and I thought about that prayer and I thought would any american pray that God, okay. One thing I ask is don't let me get rich I don't want to have like enough for the rest of my life Just just give me only my daily bread.

He goes don't have me starve to death He goes but here's my request god. I just want my daily bread. I just want to I want to live paycheck to paycheck That's his prayer He explains it after he goes.

Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you And say who is the lord or I may become poor and steal and so dishonor the name of my god It's not an interesting prayer He says see god if you have if you give me too much and we've seen that in scripture those who have too much they forget god And that's why this is so hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven This guy goes man. Make sure god. Just don't deny me this promise me.

You won't give me too much When's the last time you prayed that? Think about that Because god promised me you're not gonna make me rich It is just like one of two requests that you gotta give me before I die is don't let me get rich I I just I don't want to be a liar And I don't want to be rich And I don't want to I don't want to be poor He goes just give me my daily bread See, he says I actually want to be in a place of dependence See god. The one thing in my life is I don't want to forget about you And if I have too much then I don't need to depend on you anymore And yet that's the american dream is to set ourselves up in such a way that we don't have to depend on god i've got plenty Most of us really didn't need him this week to provide for us We're fine And this guy goes no, I want to be in a place of dependence And so please don't give me too much and I said, I wonder if we could really pray that With our culture and our mindset and the way we have been trained this is so ingrained in our heads That could we actually pray to be dependent people Who have only their daily bread? Can we really pray the lord's prayer and mean it and say god I actually like that I actually want to be a person that every day I pray lord Give us this day our daily bread Because none of us I don't think any of us have ever prayed that and really meant it Right We pray it we say it but in the back of our minds it's like man I could eat bread for 20 years, you know I got plenty And there's something about that dependence and I just started praying that this week. No god I want to I want to be wise enough like this person.

I want to be wise enough to realize that I actually don't want too much because too much would keep me from being dependent on you and I might just forget all about you But lord, I do want to pray. I do want to live paycheck to paycheck I do want to give away the access Because then I have to experience you every week, you know It's interesting because a few months ago probably three months ago is my guess i'm not trying to be dishonest I'm, just trying to think three weeks three months ago around I um I prayed and I thought god, you know I think my life is a little bit too easy Like everything's kind of coming together and i'm getting a little casual about you You ever you ever get that way Where things are just cruising and they're fine It's actually a good stage of life and I feel like all the challenges i'm meeting head-on and just everything's going fine And it had been going like that for a while And I just said god, you know This isn't that great And I I said, you know, I I think I need some adversity in my life I think you need to make some things more difficult to get me more passionate in prayer So he answered my prayer And And it was so cool because this week, you know, i'm on my knees just Coming before god and saying god, okay Now I can't do it now it's This is impossible The things I believe you want me to do and the challenges that are in my face right now I I don't see any way I can humanly pull this off I'm, not seeing light at the end of the tunnel You have to fix certain things for me You have to do this you and I just started naming things that were out of my control And as I was praying I realized wait, this is what I prayed for This type of urgency where god you must come through you must come through you must come through It's what I wanted And I don't lift that up and say yeah, that's the way I always pray. I'm just going man You know, it's it's at certain points in your life god gives you wisdom to realize that comfort isn't All it's cracked up to be And it can create a laziness and if god is truly our number one desire Then we would pray.

You know what lord put me in situations where i'm dependent on you And I need you. In fact, don't make things too easy. Don't give me too much Because I could forget you And I know right now a lot of us are hurting financially Some of you guys are in some pretty difficult situations, you know with housing.

I mean i'm not going to ask for a raise of hands Hey, how many lost their house? You know, it's just it's nuts How many have lost their jobs lost their houses taken pay cuts everything else and it's a crazy time I mean, we're not we're not desperate In the sense that you know, like people are around the world, but it's very real to us And i'm just saying you know what don't take it all as a curse Don't take it all as god what went wrong? Because there's something good about dependence In fact this this writer of proverbs and proverbs 30 was wise enough to even ask for that in his life And I just encourage you to think through because a lot of times in church we can say very grand statements like ah Your love is greater than life I'm going really Do you really mean that? So then you're willing to give up some of these things if that will bring you closer to his love because his love is that great Do you long for it? Do you desire it? See, I all I want Today is I want to free you from guilt I want to free you from deception I I lied after becoming a christian There were some big lies in my life And I still remember those days when I was hiding so much It was the worst feeling and we've all done it We've all hidden stuff even after becoming believers we hide things You know that sick feeling you get and the bigger the the lie is the harder it is to live with yourself The harder it is to sleep Like like david says it perfectly He says I felt like the inside of me was wasting away like my bones were literally rotting away Like I could feel this pressure this heaviness in me I remember times when people would look at me in the eyes and say hey, I need to talk to you about something And immediately my heart would just start pounding Through my chest because I thought oh, no, do they know and it'd be nothing right? You know and they go. Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Yeah. I wanted to ask you about what kind of tires you have in your car You're just like oh good Because you just had that guilty man. I hope they don't know.

I hope they don't know. I hope they don't know And then once it's found out and it's released and it's out there like david said it's like oh I could breathe again You know, that's all I want Because I think some of you are are miserable you come to church and The moment I talk about deception You start feeling that stuff in your chest And you get nervous. What if I walk out of this room and someone asks me? What i'm lying about? You don't want to be asked that And i'm saying man, that's just such a terrible way to live It's so good to be free from that.

It's so good to confess rather than to be exposed And so that's my prayer today That's my desire. My desire is not that we walk away feeling guilty feeling shame My desire is that we walk away so much more in love with the cross Because we realize man, that's why jesus died Jesus died for whatever i'm hiding Jesus died for this sin that i've been suppressing And yeah, i'm gonna have to confess to some people but you know what I can be forgiven of that if I confess And that's my desire I'm gonna have the worship team come back out and we're just gonna close with one last song But here's what I want to do is I want to give you some space before we sing Again if you would just bow your heads Yeah, I don't want to try to manipulate anything because I have no clue what's going on in your lives I just know that I can honestly say I prayed for this weekend A lot more than I normally do Because I wanted fire to come down from heaven in a different way I want to be a god thing where you are struck with some of the stuff that's That you've been hiding And this would be the night you come clean There'll be people up by the prayer room if you need to pray with someone But I just want you to spend some time alone with god who knows the truth about everything And just talk through these things with him Tell him the biggest lies in your life right now And you may not even sing through this whole song. It just may be a whole confession time You may

need prayer with someone you may want to get baptized and just be cleansed of everything and start over
You may go you know, I don't even know if i'm going to heaven because I don't know if I even have a
relation with god Just come clean with all that and pray with someone But do some business with god right
now

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/ecUAxb4d8yU.mp4>

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