

Faith Alive!

Simply Tell The Truth

James 5:12

...just a simple 'yes' or 'no'...

Oath-taking & Truth Telling

- **Oaths exist because people don't tell the truth**
- **Philosophical Subjectivism and Post-Modern Relativism**
- **The deeper problem: we're *congenital liars***
 - **No one has to teach us how to lie!**

Exposition

- **Above all...**
 - **‘As I conclude...’**
- **...stop swearing**
 - **Watch your mouth!**
 - *From the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks*
Matt 12:34
 - **Cursing and profanity**
 - James 3:10 – calling God to damn someone
 - Eph 4:29; 5:4 – obscene, foul language

Exposition

- ... stop swearing...

Legitimate vows and solemn promises before God

- ‘I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth ... so help me God’
- ‘Do you take this woman? ... I do!
- **Invoking God as witness – affirming utter seriousness**
 - **II Sam 3** *May God deal with me severely if I don't do it...*
 - **Deut 10:30** God encourages oath taking
 - **Gen 22:16-18; Heb 6:13-17** God swears an oath
 - **Rom 1:9; II Cor 1:23** etc. – Paul calls God as witness
 - **Lev 19:12; Ex 20:7; Num 30:2**
 - **Matt 26:63,64a** Jesus under oath...

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Exposition

- ... stop swearing...
- ... by heaven, earth, anything else

Desist from trivialized, frivolous and insincere oaths...

– Matt 23:16-22

Simply tell the truth!

Application

- **Your 'Yes' may need to become 'No' !**
 - **See II Cor 1:12-2:4**
 - **There are very few absolutely unchangeable decisions we must make in life**
- **Don't tell all the truth all the time!**

*Everything we say must be the truth,
but we are not obliged to always tell
everyone everything that is true...*
- **God heals the 'congenital disease'!**
 - **The Good News is that God changes us on the inside so truth-telling becomes second nature...**