

*"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the Wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."
Ephesians 5:6 KJV*



Vain words are any speech or writing that dilute, skew, add to, take away from, or deny the Truth of God's Word. Many have become so used to lying out of convenience that they are not even convicted of it in their hearts anymore and even expect others to join in. How often have you heard believers talk negatively behind someone's back while acting around them as if they were best friends? Then there's the, "If so-and-so calls for me, I'm not here." My mom used to say, and you've heard it, too, "If you can't say something nice, keep your mouth shut." We've deluded ourselves into thinking that we have to lie just to be nice. Dad taught me a rule, which I often broke, that I will never forget. Before speaking, judge your words with these three questions. "Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?" If what you say, fails any one of these tests, it is vain speech! Jesus basically called the woman at the well a harlot, but He phrased it in such a kind manner that she accepted the Truth of His words. "Jesus saith unto her, 'Go, call thy husband, and come hither.' The woman answered and said, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said unto her, 'Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.' The woman saith unto him, 'Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.'" In so speaking, Jesus demonstrated Truth with kindness of speech. Believers are given instructions concerning our speech. "But speaking the Truth in Love...grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ: Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt (pleasant to hear), that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Dad used to joke about his preaching by saying he used the K.I.S.S. method; "Keep It Simple, Stupid!" He said it was an admonition that he gave himself before every sermon. My Dad was anything, but stupid. Another pastor said about preaching, "Be plain, be brief, and be quiet." The more we try to embellish the closer we come to lying. Like Detective Friday used to say on the TV show, "Dragnet," "Just the facts ma'am, please, just the facts." Our words create problems for us either by omission of Truth or fabricated inclusion. We often blurt out the first thought that comes to mind without weighing it. These thoughts, more often than not, are Satan's whispers. Words spoken in moments of passion are often regretted, because they were not our own, but were spoken on impulse. Impulses are usually satanically injected into our thoughts. Judge your impulses by the Word of God thoroughly before acting on them. If not sure, wait a day. This is especially true when shopping. If you "need" it today, you'll need it tomorrow. It will be "On Sale" again or God will supply the extra funds when it is needed. To say, you saved money by buying is the same reasoning that has plunged us into the present economic crisis. The "save by spending" idea is just "vain words." How can you save by spending? If you spend a dollar to save fifty cents, you didn't save anything; you spent a dollar! "Let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." How can Truth remain Truth when embellished with "vain words?"

Vain words deceive the sons of men,
Words from without, words from within,
Vain words lead fools to prideful sin,
And bring the wrath of God on them. ~CGP

Truth is the best offense against a lie. Vain words will bind the soul in chains of sin, but Truth will set it free.

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36 KJV