

DISHONESTY



A Symptom of the Wasting DisEase



A COMPELLING ANALYSIS OF DISHONESTY AND ITS CHILDREN

LYING, DECEIT, CORRUPTION, COVER-UP

AFFECTING EVERY ASPECT OF OUR SOCIETY



TWO PERSPECTIVES:

The Author's years as a Polygraph Examiner

THE HORIZONTAL CONNECTION

The Theological Panorama

THE VERTICAL CONNECTION

The Misunderstood Cause ~ The Consummate Cure



"I hope that this book will be a catalyst for the restoration of Honesty to its rightful position of dignity in our society. The time is now for the faithful to demonstrate whatever is Noble, whatever is Right, whatever is Pure, whatever is Lovely, whatever is Admirable. Let's make it happen!" — **John Tiffany**

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John Tiffany



MISSION
HONESTY

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Dishonesty: A Symptom of the Wasting DisEase

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CONTENTS

Chapter 1	The Wasting DisEase.....	1
Chapter 2	Truth Telling and Lying: The Technical Aspect	7
Chapter 3	The Fear of Being Caught.....	13
Chapter 4	Screening for Honesty: A View of Human Nature.....	31
Chapter 5	Seeing Firsthand the Decline of Moral Health	59
Chapter 6	The Boundaries: How Far Can I Stretch the Truth?	69
Chapter 7	The World's Response: R & R (Rules and Regulations)	73
Chapter 8	Lies, Corruption, Deceit, and Cover-Up: The Symptoms are Not the DisEase.....	79

CONTENTS

Chapter 9	What is the DisEase?	87
Chapter 10	The Disconnect.....	117
Chapter 11	Troubleshooting a Faulty Connection	137
Chapter 12	Connection Restored but Still Not Working [Romans 7:15–25]	147
Chapter 13	Under New Management [Romans 8:1–17]	165
Chapter 14	Something Personal	193
Chapter 15	An Examination of Conscience: A Frank Assessment.....	205
Chapter 16	A Look Back and a Look Forward.....	213
A Few Final Notes		229
Endnotes		232

PREFACE

I am writing this book as one who has observed Dishonesty and its children—Lying, Deceit, Corruption and Cover-Up—from two seemingly unrelated perspectives.

Perspective #1: For eighteen years, I worked professionally as a polygraph examiner and interrogator looking at Dishonesty hand to hand. This is the level where the horizontal activity takes place within our relationships, one to another, and society as a whole.

Perspective #2: My devotion to Bible study has provided me an opportunity to look at Dishonesty and its children from the theological vantage point. It is within that Vertical Relationship between man and his creator that we discover the origins and underlying (pun intended) nature of deceit.

At first, most people are surprised that I walked away from my profession as a polygraph examiner while right at the top of my game. I was in private practice and most of my clients were in the

banking business. I conducted screening examinations for them to determine the trustworthiness of new employees, whether tellers or presidents, and when the need arose, I conducted specific issue examinations to determine who was responsible for acts of theft within the banks. Approximately seventy percent of my business was “honesty–suitability” screening. The remaining thirty percent of my business was specific-incident criminal investigation work for the legal profession and law enforcement agencies.

You may be thinking that lie detection sounds like an interesting and stimulating career, so why walk away from all that income and excitement? Two primary reasons, one stemming from a technical scientific reality that I’ll expand upon later and one from a theologically based change in life philosophy that I will briefly touch upon here.

In 1978 while attending a retreat, I came face to face with the opportunity to explore the big picture in life. Not the narrow theme of the movie *Alfie* and song “What’s it all about, *Alfie*?”, but a view from a much larger vantage point. As I explored further I came to a place in my inmost being where the message became clear: *You have spent the last eighteen years searching out the foibles in people. It’s time to spend the rest of your life developing the finest attributes in those who come into your sphere of influence.* So I set in motion the plan to exit my polygraph life on my fortieth birthday, April 1, 1981. Yes, I am an April fool, and I can say that I have lived up to every part of it.

What I began to realize about honesty, the decline thereof, and human behavior would incubate within me for the next thirty years. Even though I could at that time, thirty years ago, see the symptoms of the condition, I did not fully understand that I was

in fact seeing only the symptoms—but not the causal, insidious Wasting DisEase itself.

As with most of us, life and its circumstances—making a living, dealing with illnesses and deaths, finding a way around the pot-holes and flat tires in our daily routines—has many times taken me from acting on a calling desire. So, for thirty years now I have neglected to put my thoughts on real paper. Of course, I have accumulated twenty pounds of sticky notes on the subject, but oh how different that is from writing a book about it.

But today, I see such a manifestation of lies, deception, corruption, amoral activity and cover-up that I feel compelled to write it down. Notice I did not say that this behavior is unprecedented in human history, for it is not. It is however, in its present iteration, at a very significant intersection, and its direction from here will affect your life as well as the lives of your children, grandchildren, and the rest of human destiny.

CHAPTER ONE

THE WASTING DisEASE

While the specifics of the symptoms and the Wasting DisEase will be fully developed in Chapters 8 and 9, for now a glimpse is in order. Let's break down the terms a little. It is not my intention to bore you with a side trip down linguistics and etymology lane, but I think it useful if we take a peek at the words Symptom, Wasting and DisEase as I intend to apply them throughout these pages.

Symptom(s): Something that shows evidence of the presence of a disorder. In the context of this book, the symptoms are Dishonesty, Lies, Deceit, Corruption, and Cover-Up.

Wasting: Gradually deteriorating, undergoing decay. This is the classic death spiral where with each passing moment the person is that much closer to final destruction. It is an insidious condition, but it does have a cure.

DisEase: Here we have a composite definition for clarity's sake, taken from *Webster's Dictionary* and various online dictionaries. Original meaning: Lack of ease, without ease. Contemporary meaning: A condition of the living that impairs

normal functioning and is manifested by distinguishing signs and symptoms.

The original usage in the 1300s conveyed the idea that there was a DisEase within the person. In other words, something was present in the person that disordered what might have been a more pleasant life experience. Of course, we now use the term in a more pathological and medical sense, but even then there is a consciousness of “something is not right.”

Although I hate to do this to you, in the context of this book the elucidation of the DisEase will have to wait for Chapter 9. For now, let’s just consider that one of the essential components of mankind—man’s Conscience, is not functioning correctly. As a consequence, all sorts of destructive behaviors are being manifested in the symptoms we see: Lying, Deceit, Corruption, and Cover-Up.

The first thing to note is, that the symptoms seem to get all the attention. Take any newspaper, newscast, or current event Web site, and add up the stories that have to do with Lying, Deceit, Corruption, and Cover-Up, cynicism, criminal acts and man’s inhumanity to man, and you will quickly see one of the major themes of mankind’s activity in life.

The effects of Dishonesty are not just a factor in the high-profile categories like the scandals of corrupt businessmen and politicians. Dishonesty impacts every facet of life. Think of the wasteful efforts spent in society because of the presence of dishonest people, such as the annoyance of trying to open an item from the store that is security wrapped in an impossible plastic shell to keep thieves from removing it. Then there are all the medicine and product safety seals, security cameras galore all over the world, fences, alarm systems, anti-virus, anti-malware, anti-Hacker firewalls,

anti, anti, anti software packages to protect everything imaginable. Shoplifting tags, employee theft programs, passwords, fingerprint IDs, etc. Remember, I used to earn my livelihood because of the existence of dishonesty. But think of the enormity of the unproductive costs in our life today—nearly the entire judicial system in every country trying to manage dishonesty of all sorts. All the lawyers, the IRS, police forces, worldwide airport security, all because of dishonest, disrespectful behavior. Why should we be so weighted down by the load of Dishonesty and its children?

Then, there is the whole sphere of interpersonal Dishonesty. Infidelity in marriage, divorce, manipulation, and Lying. It is an epidemic condition. Destructive behavior of all sorts both with adults and kids. Rebellion is stronger than ever. How many folks do you know who have spent tens of thousands of dollars for treatment of drug addictions, alcohol addictions, gambling addictions and the like, only to have the same problem surface again and again?

Without an effective and immediate treatment, this Wasting DisEase will destroy the organism.

On the societal level, we are seeing process-driven methods to treat the symptoms. The establishment of inspector's general offices, formal ethics codes, and all manner of internal snooping, but these attempts are not going to get at the DisEase itself.

So, I guess you could say that this is a "gut check" for our generation. I'm not a lettered scientist, theologian, philosopher, psychologist, or any of the rest, but I have had an opportunity to observe human behavior, especially honesty, from a perspective different than most. I think that each one of you who is reading this book knows in reality that something is dreadfully wrong. As I lay out my observations and thoughts, I hope they are meaningful to you and those who follow.

“Why use the term Wasting DisEase in the title of this book?” you might ask. Because it sums up the condition of man as a result of his disobedience to the Lord. Let’s look at the context of this idea as it is reflected in God’s word as recorded in Psalm 106:13–15.

- 13 But they soon forgot what he had done
and did not wait for his counsel.
14 In the desert they gave in to their craving;
in the wasteland they put God to the test.
15 So he gave them what they asked for,
but sent a wasting disease upon them.*

Let’s start with a little context synopsis first. This Psalm is a recap of some of the wonderful miracles the Lord had performed on behalf of His people the Israelites and their lack of gratitude for such deliverance. In the verses preceding verse 13, the Psalmist is recalling the deliverance of the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery and God’s miracle of parting the waters of the Red Sea.

In verse 13, we see two important focal points. First they forgot. Typical of our nature, we tend to lose a sense of gratitude rather quickly and move on to our own agenda. In our modern vernacular it might be stated: “Okay, that was yesterday, but what have you done for me lately?” Secondly and very related to forgetting the Lord—they did not wait for the Lord’s counsel, but pushed ahead with their own desires.

Next, verse 14 is a description of the Israelites’ disregard of God’s directives throughout their time of wandering and especially when they grumbled against God because they had no food or water, even though God had provided for all their needs many times prior.

They did as we do, they forgot that God always provides a way. They jumped the gun instead of waiting on the Lord and demanded food and water—right now.

In verse 15, God gave them their request but because they insisted upon it, right now, instead of letting the Lord provide it when he had planned to, it carried with it a long-term consequence. When man decides to become his own God, he is set to waste away.

The term in verse 15 “wasting disease” in the original Hebrew is the word *razown*. In English, it is translated “wasting” or “leanness.” It is the condition that prevails in man when he is disobedient to the Lord. It is an insidious deterioration and decay of the Soul. Perhaps another passage from God’s Word would give some additional illumination.

Proverbs 16:25

*25 There is a way that seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.*

The lesson here is that we think in our ego that we are in control (our own God) and plenty smart to make our own way in life, without the Lord’s input, but that choice carries with it deterioration unto death.

I am not certain how this book came to be in your hands, but perhaps it presents an opportunity to reflect on how far along the Wasting DisEase has developed in your own life. Thusly, the first several chapters will take a look at the symptoms of the Wasting DisEase and some of man’s attempts at dealing with them. Then, we will look at the DisEase itself. Finally, we will chart out the cure and some actions you can take to help bring about a widespread healing of humanity.

CHAPTER TWO

TRUTH TELLING AND LYING: THE TECHNICAL ASPECT

The ability to evaluate whether one is telling the truth has always been an important endeavor. True fact finding is often crucial to making the correct decision about most everything. In that sense, we seek truth for refining our ability to make clear distinctions irrespective of any moral implications. As Detective Joe Friday of *Dragnet* used to say “Just the facts Ma’am!”

In the morality realm, beyond just the facts, there has always been, behind the scenes, the implication that the person who lies is less moral than the person who tells the truth. The positive moral aspect of truth is usually called Honesty or its synonym Integrity. In fact, with respect to most societies throughout history, lying behavior has been frowned upon and those who lie have been put to shame and or ostracized.

There are many examples of ancient attempts to set up systems to “catch” people telling lies. One of the original scenarios went like this: Suspects were brought to a cave opening and told that inside was a special donkey. They were to go into the dark cave and pull

the tail of the donkey. If the donkey remained silent then it was a clear indication that they had not been involved in the crime under investigation. But if they were guilty the donkey would bray loudly and expose their guilt. Well, those lie detector officials had a trick up their sleeve. They had covered the donkey's tail with lamp black, and so the innocent exited the cave with black hands. The guilty however came forth with clean hands because they had refused to touch the donkey's tail. Not too shabby psychology for the 1200s.

The field of lie detection in modern times—the polygraph world—has tried to refine techniques and scientific instrumentation to the point of creating ways to actually establish whether a given answer to a question is true or false. Initially, the lie detection technique had its origins in the 1920s, but came to modern usage beginning in the 1940s. It was developed as an investigative tool in the field of criminology. Early on, the technique was mostly used in solving crimes.

As the specialty matured, the polygraph technique began to be used as a security screening procedure for positions of trust and responsibility. The theory upon which the technique was built (I'll express some concerns and differences I have about the validity of the theory in later chapters) centered on a belief in modern psychology that is usually called the fight-or-flight mechanism. That belief suggests that when a person perceives what he believes is a threat to his well being, certain physiological changes take place within that person (the sympathetic division of the autonomic nervous system) to prepare him to either fight or flee the threat, engaging the so-called fight-or-flight mechanism. According to the theory, this psychological/physiological response is basically automatic, having been acquired over eons of evolutionary

development for protection of the species.

In simplest terms, the polygraph instrumentation is designed to capture and record basically three components, loosely related to that psychological/physiological phenomenon: 1) cardiovascular: heart rate, blood pressure variations, amplitude, and dicrotic notch activity, etc; 2) respiratory: inhalation/exhalation rates, disruptions, amplitudes, and ratios; and 3) electrical potential changes as a measurement of changing resistance levels on the skin. Thus several sensory recording attachments are made to the person to allow the data to be obtained. First, one or two baffled rubber tubes are placed around the chest and abdominal area to record the respiratory activity. Second, a blood pressure cuff is attached to the upper arm to record the cardio activity as measured from the brachial artery, and then thirdly, usually a pair of electrodes are placed on the persons fingers to measure the galvanic skin response. Oh, how I wish that I might have been able to examine my subjects in a setting similar to the intensive care unit of a modern hospital where a whole host of other physiological functions could have been monitored. Of course, that would have been far too invasive as a practical matter. Many refinements have been incorporated into modern polygraph instruments but basically they record mostly the same functions as they did thirty years ago.

Over the past sixty years, many attempts to develop a better “lie detector” instrument have been made. During the 1960s, ’70s and early ’80s, attempts to use “voice analysis” machines was a popular diversion. There have been many other “magic” devices brought forth, but they all have fallen very short of any credibility. The same can be said for all the countless studies on so-called “body language.” In any event, even with the “magic” devices, the whole

idea behind the technique is that when a question of “threat” (a question to which the person has repeatedly lied) is put to the subject, the “fight-or-flight” physiological responses will kick in and they will be recorded. The examiner, then, who is supposedly skilled in interpreting the responses, will then render an opinion as to whether the response to a certain question is truthful or deceptive. Now the scope of this book is not meant to be a white paper on the theories and scientific efficacy of the polygraph technique, so I’ll not go into all the ins and outs, except to make a couple of statements.

First the entire basis for the whole lie detection idea rests on two fundamental assumptions. Forget the validity of the assumptions for the purpose of this chapter. I mention them to orient you to the orthodox approach to lie detection theory, but as you will see in the later chapters I do not concur with much of the historical “science.”

Assumption 1: Based on the evolutionary presupposition of survival, a person, when their well-being is threatened, will undergo psychological/physiological activity that can be measured and recorded.

Assumption 2: There are certain and distinct reactions that accompany a lying response, and, they are different in nature to those which accompany a truthful response. The distinctions can be discerned by a trained examiner when he analyzes the tracings on the recorded charts. Now let me say right here, it doesn’t take too long for a polygraph examiner with any intelligence to see that the textbook visual examples of “deceptive” chart tracings are not rigid criteria.

Hence the reality: there really are no objective “lying reactions.”

The polygraph critics love to dwell on that reality. But in real life, the examiner becomes a great deal more adept and focuses on the physiological variations from question to question as a guideline to what is taking place within the subject. Any change can be significant and the ability of the examiner to mature into an observer who can put it all together separates the quacks from the professionals. All observers (medical doctors, psychologists, geologists, scientists in general) attain status and recognition by their ability to observe data and put it all together in a way that leads to a correct conclusion. Some doctors are vastly better than others even though their basic training was very similar. The refinements of the professional take place in the trenches of real life. The same can be said of polygraph examiners. The quackery manifests itself when the observer, in this case the polygraph examiner, refuses to look beyond some textbook patterns that he once was told probably indicated a deceptive response. We used to say that there were two types of polygraph examiners: those who take the charts too seriously and those who don't take them seriously enough. The question is: does a specific tracing pattern on the chart always mean deception? The answer is: no, it does not, even though a similar tracing has often been displayed by others when they have been lying. But that's not really surprising—it is a fact of life in most disciplines.

Again, what distinguishes the true professional diagnostician from the crowd is his ability to work through the anomalies. Sometimes the anomalies result in false positives and sometimes in false negatives. I don't need to expand on that for I am sure that all of the readers have had many instances of second and third opinions in the medical field—all based on basically the same set of data. If you have ever taken a stock market tutorial, you

have seen lots of examples of charts depicting market behavior. In theory you are supposed to be able to use that data to predict future activity. As you know the “pure” chartists are always susceptible to ignoring the “fundamentals” and if they blindly follow rigid chart theory, they are destined to take a beating more often than not.

Okay back to the matter at hand—Lying. In theory, the polygraph charts can show a number of so-called deceptive characteristics. To name a few, so you get the idea, they might be represented by: a rise in blood pressure amplitude or baseline, a change in pulse rate, a short holding of the breath (apnea) or the opposite manifestation (hyperventilation), a volume change in inhalation, an increase or decrease in the rate of breathing and so on. Those chart patterns are objective data. They are fact in and of themselves. They are true representations of physiological responses from the subject. The question is, however, *because of their presence do they always mean that the subject was lying?* Answer: NO.

Again the validity of the assumptions and theories of Polygraph 101 is not the important issue at this point. In fact, many of the theories are not valid in my opinion. My understanding of how it all works has evolved. I now see the big picture, and I shall bring that into view for you in the later chapters. But for now, allow me to take you through the polygraph world so that you will be able to catch an understanding of how I had the opportunity thousands upon thousands of times over eighteen years to observe human behavior when it came to Honesty and Dishonesty.