



DO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES OFFER THE TRUTH...

OR LIES?

In 1960, the Watchtower Society, the organization that governs Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide, wrote that: *"the Scriptures justify the 'war strategy' of hiding true facts from the enemy."* (Watchtower May 15, 1960, page 295) and *"As a soldier of Christ he is in theocratic warfare and he must exercise caution when dealing with God's foes. Thus the Scriptures show that for the purpose of protecting the interests of God's cause, it is proper to hide the truth from God's enemies."* (Watchtower; 6/1/1960; p. 352)

[Makes one wonder what was going within the organization in 1960!]

The Watchtower of March 1, 2003 makes this comment about distortions: *"We need courage when opposers maneuver the media into spreading bad reports about God's servants or when they try to restrict true worship by scheming "trouble by decree." (Psalm 94:20) For example, how should we feel when newspaper, radio, or television reports about Jehovah's Witnesses are distortions or outright falsehoods? Should we be shocked? No. We expect such things. (Psalm 109:2) And we are not surprised when some believe the published lies and distortions, since "anyone inexperienced puts faith in every word." (Proverbs 14:15)"*

I believe it would be prudent, then, for the general population of *non-Jehovah's Witnesses* to not "put faith in every word" of the Watchtower Society, especially after they have admitted that they believe it is "proper to hide the truth from God's enemies."

The fact is, most Jehovah's Witnesses are taught to believe that opposers or apostates (defectors)—like me—are God's enemies. Is it because we lie? No, it's because we shine a light on the fallacies, false prophecies and untruths of this organization, using real-world events and quotes from their own literature (which really annoys them—they have even shut entire websites down for doing nothing but quoting from their own *publicly accessible* literature!). In order to try to counteract what we are saying and induce "thought-terminating clichés" (a Loading the Language mind control technique), their typical programmed response is to call us a "bunch of lying apostates."

The next time Watchtower leaders refer to apostate websites or words as pornography or suggest that everything we say is a lie, I challenge just ONE Jehovah's Witness to ask for specifics. Stand up and inquire: "What specifically is a lie? On what is that information based? And how do we know that what *you* are saying is the truth if we are forbidden to consider anything except what *you* tell us?" (Then expect to be counseled and disfellowshipped/excommunicated for speaking out.)

Apostates Offer A Positive Statement—One of Naked Truth

When we say there is a child sexual abuse problem in the Watchtower in order to raise awareness and protect children, we are called liars. When we say that people have been excommunicated and shunned after having been raped by a sexual predator in the organization because they wouldn't remain quiet, we are called liars, even though the media and news reports/legal cases have substantiated this quite well.

When we say our families shun us because we want the world to know the dark side of this organization before they get sucked into the cult vortex, we are called liars. I can verify that my family was directed to shun me back in 1981—and I have the letter to prove it. Tens of thousands of ex-members worldwide can provide evidence of the same.



When we say that the organization's policies on blood have resulted in the senseless deaths of thousands, we are called liars. (My friend and I actually had a Jehovah Witness couple in Denver tell us to our faces that "maybe *one* person died refusing a blood transfusion, but that was from complications and not from not taking blood." Deception is the hallmark of a cult.)

When we talk about doctrinal flip-flops of the organization over the years, we are called liars, even though the Watchtower's own older (but intellectually discarded) literature verifies the facts. They call this "old truths" and say it is "present truths" that matter.

When we point out the false prophecies, like the end of the world predictions for 1914, 1915, 1925, 1975, etc..., we are called liars, even though their own older (but intellectually discarded) literature verifies the facts.

When Ray Franz, former Governing Body member, wrote his book *Crisis of Conscience* with a soft tongue and honest heart, simply to enlighten the organization about what really goes on at the top in the decision-making process (i.e., it is not spirit directed), he was called a liar, even though his book produced countless documents to substantiate his various allegations. (His book, like my book *Out of the Cocoon*, is on the "forbidden reading list" by Jehovah's Witnesses.)

As one fine and truthful ex-JW/counter-cult advocate pointed out, lying was the original sin in the Garden of Eden when Satan told Eve that she could live forever with the knowledge of good and evil. And isn't that precisely what the Watchtower organization is telling its members today?

But being called a liar isn't nearly as painful as realizing that 30 years later, it still hurts to know that the family I love..the family who once loved me unconditionally, will never know the truth I know because it is forbidden.

In the Afterword of my memoir, *Out of the Cocoon*, I write that I have learned the truth since leaving "The Truth" (what Jehovah's Witnesses call their religion) and the truth involves my son, Derek:

*The Truth is, no matter what has happened in the past or what will happen in the future, Derek and I are family. **We will always be a family.** My love for Derek is not conditional. And nothing and no one on this Earth will ever change that—not even a nice Jehovah's Witness knocking on our door.*

©Brenda Lee, 2009, author "Out of the Cocoon: A Young Woman's Courageous Flight from the Grip of a Religious Cult," www.outofthecocoon.net