

BA30. Not Lying to God.

We are not to lie to God.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Acts 5:1-6

But there was a man named Hananyah who, with his wife Shappirah, sold some property and, with his wife's knowledge, withheld some of the proceeds for himself; although he did bring the rest to the emissaries. Then Kefa said, "Why has the Adversary so filled your heart that you lie to the Ruach HaKodesh and keep back some of the money you received for the land? Before you sold it, the property was yours; and after you sold it, the money was yours to use as you pleased. So what made you decide to do such a thing? You have lied not to human beings but to God!" On hearing these words, Hananyah fell down dead; and everyone who heard about it was terrified. The young men got up, wrapped his body in a shroud, carried him out and buried him

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Acts 5:7-10

Related New Testament Mitzvot

BA01 Not Testing God

AB05 Not Lying to the Holy Spirit

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

None

Comment

The Bible has much to say about God's abhorrence of lying, but Acts 5:1-10 is the only passage of Scripture about lying to God; all the others are about lying to people. In a way, that makes sense because how can one lye (withhold truth) from God who is all knowing and can read men's minds? We know from the Scripture that Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter, but it is puzzling of how it was even possible for them to lie to God. The answer may lie in verse 9 in which Peter chastises Sapphira for plotting (presumably with Ananias) to test the Holy Spirit – i.e. to see if the Holy Spirit lied to them about God's requirement that they bring all of the proceeds of the sale of their property to the emissaries. Similar to how Adam and Eve (who were in a personal relationship with God) believed Satan that nothing bad would come of their eating from the forbidden tree, Ananias and Sapphira (presumably followers of Yeshua) likewise believed Satan to the extent that they were willing to test the Holy Spirit's veracity, and this may have constituted blasphemy of the Holy Spirit that we are warned against in Matthew 12:31-32.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

None