

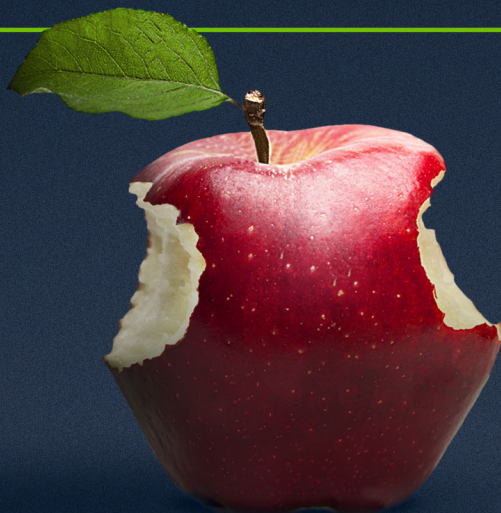
FOREWORD BY PATRICK MORLEY

LIES  
MEN  
BELIEVE

---

AND THE TRUTH THAT SETS THEM FREE

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ROBERT  
WOLGEMUTH

Clear, engaging, well crafted. And best of all, anchored in the truth. This book is going to be life changing for a lot of men. I hope you're one of them!

### **Bob Lepine**

Cohost, FamilyLife Today

It was the Greeks who said great communicators embodied logos (content), ethos (ethics or integrity), and pathos (passion). Well, if that be the case, then Robert Wolgemuth has checked all three boxes in this much-needed volume, *Lies Men Believe*. I found my heart greatly stirred as I read these inspiring words all from a man who has built a lifetime walking with Jesus and living in authentic manhood. You will be a better man after drinking in these words.

### **Bryan Loritts**

Lead Pastor, Abundant Life

Author of *Insider, Outsider*

It took a long time and some unexpected circumstances for there to be a companion volume to *Lies Women Believe*, but in God's good and mysterious providence it is here at last. I'm thankful for Robert's efforts in writing a book that so wonderfully complements Nancy's. This book will prove to be both a challenge and a blessing to you.

### **Tim Challies**

Blogger

When presented with the opportunity, I didn't immediately read Robert's manuscript. Not seeing myself as a "lie believer," I felt no urgency. Now, I stand corrected—and grateful! Those of us who know Robert regard him as accomplished, gifted, and wise. He's ready for anything and gracious in everything. As you will discover in this volume, he's also candid in exploring the challenges men face. Learning from him was like a workout for the soul, leaving me convicted and inspired. There were moments when I flushed with emotion, and others that left me galvanized with resolve. *Lies Men Believe* is personally relevant to every man and will prompt you to do business with God—as I did. I highly recommend it.

### **Paul Santhouse**

Publisher, Moody Publishers

The most dangerous lies are always the most alluring. They come to us in the guise of the good, the delightful, and the wise (Gen. 3:6). Thankfully, in this insightful and practical book, Robert Wolgemuth not only unmasks those lies, he teaches us how to recognize them for what they are. If only I'd had this book forty years ago!

### **George Grant**

Pastor of Parish Presbyterian Church

Even though the most prominent word on the cover of this book is “Lies,” I know from experience that the most important word can be found in the subtitle. It’s “Truth.” This is a book about truth . . . the power of truth. Truth that sets a man free. And this truth can be found in the absolute reliability of God’s Word, the Bible.

### **Patrick Morley**

Bestselling author and founder, *Man in the Mirror*

For many years, I have had the privilege of preaching the gospel . . . the good news of Jesus Christ who is, Himself, the Truth. This book, *Lies Men Believe*, identifies some of the awful things Satan whispers in our ears . . . lies that are shattered because of freedom that God’s grace and His truth provide. I’m thankful to Robert Wolgemuth for putting this in writing and I enthusiastically recommend this book to you.

### **Jack Graham**

Host of PowerPoint, author, and pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church

You’ll find that reading *Lies Men Believe*, with its warm, relatable style, is like having a conversation with a good friend. Be prepared, in the process, to grapple with some tough issues. And be prepared to experience the liberating power of the Truth—in your own life, and in the lives of those you influence.

### **Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth**

*Revive Our Hearts* teacher and host

*Lies* books series editor

LIES  
MEN  
BELIEVE

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*AND THE TRUTH THAT SETS THEM FREE*

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ROBERT  
WOLGEMUTH

MOODY PUBLISHERS

CHICAGO

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## TO DAVID SWANSON

**D**r. David Swanson was my pastor for over twelve years. In 2003, I had the joy of chairing the pastor nominating committee that invited David, along with his wife, Leigh, and their three kids, J. D., Alex, and Kaylee, to come to our Orlando church. They said yes.

In 2015, I married Nancy Leigh DeMoss and moved from Florida to Michigan. Lots of adjustments to be sure, but the most challenging was saying goodbye to David. Yes, he was my pastor and a brilliant and passionate expositor of God's Word. Yes, he faithfully and courageously led the flock that was the congregation of that church.

But what I appreciated most about David was his willingness to be my friend, to come alongside—he called himself my “wingman”—during my late wife's valiant battle with Stage IV ovarian cancer. David was available 24/7—literally—as I dealt with the challenges of facing my wife's imminent death, the exhaustion of being her primary caregiver (a task I was privileged to assume), then releasing Bobbie, who stepped into heaven after almost forty-five years of marriage and thirty months of a valiant battle.

This is a book about truth. David is a truth-teller. Time and again he proved this standing in the pulpit or across from cups of steaming

coffee. He proved this when truth was what needed to be said whether convenient or not. I love this about him.

So my deepest gratitude goes to David Swanson . . . pastor, precious brother, confidant, and, yes, wingman.

This book is dedicated to him.

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## FOREWORD

When Robert Wolgemuth asked me to write the foreword for *Lies Men Believe* it was, for me, a foregone conclusion. I said “yes.”

Decades ago, Robert’s (then) publishing company gave me a start, when I had never written a book. They took a chance on publishing *The Man in the Mirror*, which has sold four million copies to date. I will be eternally grateful for Robert’s confidence in me. If it weren’t for him, I would still be developing real estate and building buildings for which, let’s be honest, nobody really wants to pay fair market value!

So since the late ’80s, Robert and I have been friends. We’ve had the joy of watching each other grow and mature in our love for Christ. He is a man of 100 percent integrity, complete humility, and has as much emotional and social intelligence as any man I’ve ever known. He’s the real deal. If I were you, the reader of this book, I would want to know that about the author.

But after combing through the manuscript, there’s another and, for you, much more important and relevant reason. It’s a really, really good read.

If there ever was such a thing as a “shortcut” to the wisdom of the ages, it’s this book. Here is the kind of wisdom that can only be earned over a lifetime of trial and error, trial and error, and, finally, trial and success. I doubt there are ten men on the planet who could have written such a book.

So, not only do I have the honor of enthusiastically endorsing this book, but to vouch for Robert as well. It would take more space than space here affords me, but suffice it to say, I have enormous respect for this man. He has been an adviser, encourager, prayer partner, colleague, and mentor to me for over thirty years.

Second, this book deals with a subject for which I have given my life and ministry. Even though the most *prominent* word on the cover is “Lies,” I know from experience that the most *important* word can be found in the subtitle. It’s “Truth.” This is a book about truth . . . the power of truth. Truth that sets a man free. And this truth can be found in the absolute reliability of God’s Word, the Bible.

As I mentioned, I trafficked in commercial real estate for many years. Many times I found myself haggling deal points having to do with a property I was buying or selling. Often these negotiations ended in a handshake and then were forever consummated by a contract. A written agreement that literally dotted all the “i’s” and crossed every “t.” This piece of paper, including executing signatures, sealed the deal.

The Bible is the written and sealed agreement between a sovereign God and me. And you. It’s eminently reliable and trustworthy. *Lies Men Believe* is a book that lifts high the veracity of God’s Word.

Years ago, in the first few pages of *The Man in the Mirror*, I wrote:

***This dichotomy between God’s order and the order of this world produces a strain on the Christian man trying to sort out his thinking. Are there absolutes? Do biblical principles really address the [twenty-first]-century, day-to-day problems we men have? Is it possible for us to sort through our problems and build a workable model for us to live by?***

If I may answer the question I posed when I wrote these words, “Yes, biblical principles found in God’s Word *do* address our problems.” And I know this, not only a Christian author or a seminary graduate who you’d expect to speak this way, but also from personal experience as a businessman, husband, and father who has faced life in the crucible of trouble and pain, and emerged thoroughly convinced that God’s Word is truth.

Again, in my first book, I wrote:

***Biblical Christians don’t live by their own ideas, but by penetrating, understanding, and applying the Word of God.***

The book you now hold in your hand unpacks that clear understanding of what it means to absorb and apply the Bible’s truth in the relentless hearing of Satan’s whispers. His lies.

A year and a half before its publication, when Robert first identified the forty lies he was going to address in *Lies Men Believe*, he sent them to me for my review. Here’s how I responded: “You are approved for takeoff on any runway you choose. Seriously, as I suspected, you most certainly don’t need any help. This looks awesome. Love you buddy, Pat.”

So the list of “lies” was finalized, the associated “truths” from God’s Word were crafted and completed, and now the book is finished. This book. The lies and their companion explanations have been fleshed out.

And with this foreword, I have been given the chance to give the propeller a spin and send this wonderful news on its way. I’m so glad you have chosen to get on board. You will not regret it.

God bless you on this journey.

PATRICK MORLEY, PHD

Orlando, Florida

September 2018



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# INTRODUCTION

*“Liar, liar, pants on fire!”*

When I was a young boy, I sometimes heard this incendiary rhyme in the neighborhood or at school. Kids would taunt each other on the playground, attempting to reduce their enemy to tears.

Of course, the image of someone with his pants engulfed in flames is somewhat humorous. (Unless, of course, that someone is you.)

It seems that a young country boy was enamored with his father’s cigar humidor. Even though he had been ordered to never go near the thing, one day while his father was in another part of the house, the lad undid the latch and seized a single stogie from his old man’s collection.

There was a toolshed on the edge of their property and the boy headed out to the small structure to do what he had seen his father do so many times. With the strike of a wooden match, the lad started puffing away, thankfully not daring to actually suck the blue smoke deep into his lungs. Or he’d still be coughing.

Wondering, as parents do, what his son might be up to, the father

called out to his boy. Receiving no response, the father strode to the lean-to, continuing to call out to his young offspring. Hearing his father's steps, the boy quickly tried to snuff out the cigar, shoving it into the back pocket of his jeans.

Of course, the smoke seeped through his britches and caught the attention of his father. Or maybe it was the terror on the boy's face that his father noticed as the lit cigar began to make a searing impression on his derriere.

In any case, the boy was found out. His deception turned to ashes. Literally.

## NO HARMLESS LIES

In her bestselling book *Lies Women Believe*, my wife, Nancy, wrote:

*"There are no harmless lies."*

Although her book was intended for women, this statement is not gender specific. It's true for everyone and it's the reason why I agreed to write this book as a sequel to Nancy's. This one is for men. For me. For you.

*Really? Seriously?* Isn't it interesting how frequently we hear or speak these words? Perhaps after someone says something outrageous or doubtful.

But these words would be completely unnecessary if everyone only spoke truth. Every time. All the time.

Lies come in many shapes and sizes. "Little" ones could include the way we answer a policeman who has just pulled us over for *allegedly* speeding. "No, sir, I had no idea I was going faster than the speed limit."

Or they could be whoppers like lying about an affair.

***Lying in every shape and form and size has consequences. And this is not a new concept. It's been around for a long time.***

But lying in every shape and form and size has consequences. And this is not a new concept. It's been around for a long time.

It will likely come as no surprise to you that the backbone and foundation of this book is the Bible. You will find biblical accounts and insights included from front to back. The Bible tells us about lies men believed long ago—lies men still believe today. We will do our best to identify some of those lies, address them, and take them out.

## **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE FIRST LIES FOUND IN THE BIBLE?**

Which lies spoken of in the Holy Scripture are the most egregious? The most damaging for those who believe them?

Here's one for starters:

**“You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.” (Gen. 3:4-5)**

This was the lie that began the downward spiral of sin and death. These words were spoken by Satan, appearing to Adam and Eve, disguised as a serpent.

History's first couple was situated in a sin-free setting: the garden of Eden. And this place of perfection included a “no” directed to the man.

**The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Gen. 2:16-17)**

It was as though the Lord was saying to Adam, “This place is yours. Enjoy all of it . . . except for that tree over there. It's lovely to look at and its fruit is tasty, but stay away from it. If you disobey Me, it will be the end of you.”

The first heinous lie is that we have the capacity to be like God.

And here's another one:

**Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves.” (Gen. 11:4)**

From the first time I poured concrete into a foundation, I’ve been infected by the construction bug. The small company I started working for at age seventeen had just begun the process of building a house in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. I remember the delight I experienced that summer watching the house take form. Because I was the only full-time employee, not counting its founder, I learned every trade, falling in love with most of them.<sup>2</sup>

In fact, throughout the summer I brought my parents back to the site on the weekends just to show them the progress . . . and what their son had personally accomplished. I was proud.

The story of a group of men getting together to build something isn’t unusual. But the purpose of those who came together to erect the Tower of Babel was truly unique. And awful.

The first lie is that you and I can presumptuously take the place of God and do life on our own—without Him. The second lie is that our highest goal—the ultimate source of our greatest satisfaction—is to glorify ourselves. To make ourselves great by our own remarkable accomplishments. Sounds like the second stanza of the same song, doesn’t it?

## WHAT’S THE TRUTH?

So what is the truth that counters these lies? I’m glad you asked.

The prophet Isaiah had something to say about the first lie from Satan about becoming like God if he and Eve would taste the forbidden fruit: “I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God” (Isa. 45:5).

And Jesus summed up His response to the second lie about earning our way to glory and perfection in two short sentences: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

So even though the word “Lies” is the most prominent word on the

cover of this book, it's not the most important word. That would be a word in the subtitle: "Truth."

Are you as glad as I am there is truth that is completely reliable? A powerful antidote to the fabrications that surround us? I bet you are.

One more thing. If you haven't already, I encourage you to find a friend or two—or more—to go through the book with you. This will encourage you, keep you accountable along the journey, and enable you to be a blessing to others.

And, to help jump-start that experience, just for the fun of it, I've added a few simple questions and comments after the "truth statements" that summarize. As my dad used to say, these may help as you "double-check" your thinking about the lie and the personal application of this truth.

Good? Good.

My prayer is that this book will be challenging and redemptive, convicting, and grace-filled. It's so good to have you along. Welcome.

ROBERT WOLGEMUTH  
September 2018



SECTION ONE

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# FOUNDATIONS

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# CROSSING THE BRIDGE

## WHEN WE GET THERE

When Satan whispers in a man's ear, encouraging him to do something foolish (at best) or sinful (at worst), the man sometimes goes ahead against his better judgment, figuring he'll be able to work it out.

As Nancy and I fell in love and started our journey toward marriage, there were many questions to be answered. Most of them came from her.

Here was a fifty-seven-year-old woman who had never been married. It wasn't that she wasn't "marriage material." Nancy was beautiful, highly relational, intelligent, and gifted. But early in her life she had sensed the call of God to give her life to vocational ministry, which she had joyfully done for all those years as a single woman.

"And then"—if you'll forgive me for borrowing from an old rock lyric made popular in the sixties by a group called The Association—"along came Robert."

So back to those questions Nancy asked. Many of them were practical considerations, such as, where would we live? And how would we reconfigure one of our homes to accommodate both of us? There were more: Nancy is a night person, and I'm up long before dawn; how would

that work if we were married? Where would we go to church? And what would happen to the ministry she founded and leads?

More often than not, my answer was a simple, “We’ll work it out,” because I truly believed that we would. And, for the most part, we have done exactly that. We’ve worked it out. But many times it seemed that “we’ll work it out” was not an entirely satisfying answer to Nancy. Now I know why.

You may have never thought of it this way, but often, when a man is faced with a problem that has no immediate or obvious solution, his heart and his words may find themselves at odds. His situation could be a stalemate; in his heart he truly is not sure what to do, but his lips express confidence in the outcome. His shameless *panache* emboldens him. So he steps out and acts on the information he has.

## LIES MEN BELIEVE

In 2001, Nancy authored her bestselling book, *Lies Women Believe*.<sup>1</sup> Now, at her request and my enthusiastic “yes,” I am taking up the mantle to create a matching book, exploring some of the lies we as men tend to believe. Because men and women are both human, there is some overlap in the lies. But, because men and women *aren’t* the same, there are some differences in the lies that lure us in. More important still, there is a difference in the *how* and *why* we believe these lies. As men, it seems that we are less likely to be blindly deceived and more likely to embrace lies with our eyes wide open.

As I did when faced with Nancy’s questions about what married life would look like for us, sometimes you and I, in the face of uncertainty, simply push confidently ahead, as though we know what we’re doing. As for the fallout? “I’ll cross that bridge when I get to it.”

Taking a page from the Old Testament book of Genesis, the whole idea of

***Adam was not deceived. Adam had no such excuse. He knew what he was doing. When he took the bite, his eyes were wide open.***

“we’ll work this out” makes its first appearance in the garden of Eden. Eve was deceived. But Adam wasn’t. He knew exactly what he was doing. How do we know this? The apostle Paul gives us a snapshot of the man’s experience:

**For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. (1 Tim. 2:13-14)**

There are two puzzling notions in this text from Paul’s letter to Timothy. First, what does it mean that Eve was deceived? Second, what does it mean that Adam was not deceived? And why does any of this matter?

The serpent didn’t attack Eve head-on. His approach was subtle and nuanced. He used sleight of hand. Deception. Pure trickery. “Did God actually say . . . ?” (Gen. 3:1). Eve was guilty to be sure, but her guilt was mitigated by the deception.

Adam was not deceived. Adam had no such excuse. He knew what he was doing. When he took the bite, his eyes were wide open.

## **TRUTH WE CAN COUNT ON**

The Bible contains accurate history of ancient times. But the Bible is also enigmatic at times, as it describes various scenes that are outside our experience—floating ax-heads, chariots of fire, a talking serpent. So it’s easy for some to read biblical history like they’re reading Mother Goose or the Brothers Grimm. But the Bible tells us what actually happened in space and time. In the beginning there truly was a man, shaped by God’s own hand from the dust. And there truly was a woman, also shaped by God’s own hand, though from the man’s rib. And these two lived in the middle of perfection.

In Eden there was no conflict between the lion and the lamb; there were no biting mosquitos; there was no discord between Adam and Eve. Eve never needed to ask Adam to pick up his socks (oh, wait . . . they were still naked). No shame or sickness, no death or disease, all because there was no sin. Yes, there was a time in human history when misery did not

*I wonder if Adam determined he would rather live with his wife's approval under God's curse than to be without her affirmation under God's blessing.*

exist, guilt was unknown, nothing and no one died, and peace reigned.

Yes, all was right with the world.

And then along came Satan.

Many Bible scholars believe Adam was present for the whole conversation between his wife and the serpent. If that is the case, as it appears to be, Adam failed to stand up to Satan or embrace his calling to protect his wife. He stood there doing nothing until she offered him the fruit. And as his wife had done, he ate it. Over the centuries, theologians have speculated over Adam's

motives. Looking at this encounter through my own somewhat romantic lens, I wonder if Adam determined he would rather live with his wife's approval under God's curse than to be without her affirmation under God's blessing.

Of course, you and I can't be sure of what motivated Adam. But we do know that he walked into the fateful event with his eyes open. There was no pulling a rabbit out of a hat. No trickery. He was not hoodwinked. He took the fruit with the knowledge that it was the wrong thing to do.

The difference between Adam and Eve at this watershed moment in human history may give us an insight into some of the differences between men and women—how we think and how we make choices. And what kinds of lies we are charmed into believing.

In this book, as I identify some of the lies we are tempted to believe, I will be painting with a broad brush. In doing this I'm not suggesting that all men are the same or that all women are the same. I am merely speaking of tendencies, peculiar temptations that men tend to face versus those that women may more typically encounter.

## THINKING AND FEELING

All human beings, like the Maker whose image we bear, both think and feel.

**When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a *delight* to the eyes, and that the tree was to be *desired* to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. (Gen. 3:6)**

*Saw. Delight. Desired.* These words explain a lot about Eve’s willingness to make a giant, disobedient decision.

Men, as a rule, are more prone to separate their beliefs and their feelings. You and I seek to maintain the rule of our minds over our hearts. That’s one reason we, at times, tend to be less compassionate.

As I was writing this book, I had a conversation with a couple who had been married just a year. Because I was a veteran married guy and she thought I could help, the young wife said to me: “When I’m struggling with something, my husband is eager to figure out how he can fix the problem. I’ve explained to him that at the moment, I just want him to care, to hold me, to sympathize with what I’m experiencing.”

You and I understand this, don’t we?

For us, there can be another danger that first reared its ugly head in Eden. When a man operates with his head and his heart—his thinking and his feeling—in separate realms, he often moves forward with an overinflated confidence, because his mind is making his decisions. He assumes that acting out whatever he *thinks* will result in acting in a way that is right.

And even when we *know* the right thing to do, we often choose to do the wrong thing anyway, whether out of expediency, convenience or, just sheer laziness. What follows is the folly of rationalization. We engage our minds to come up with excuses for why we did the wrong thing.

Wrestling with this very issue, the apostle Paul described his frustration with knowing what was right, but doing what was wrong.

***And even when we know the right thing to do, we often chose to do the wrong thing anyway. What follows is the folly of rationalization.***

**I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. (Rom. 7:19 NLT)**

Even when he *knew* the right thing to do, and even when he *wanted* to do the right thing, Paul found himself impotent to *do* what was right. He was helpless, apart from the power of the gospel and the enabling Spirit of Christ. So are you and I.

## **PAYING THE PRICE (LITERALLY)**

As a college junior, I was presented with “an opportunity of a lifetime . . . a money-making chance too good to be true.”

Sure enough.

I bumped into “Jenny,” a high school classmate at my home church during the short Thanksgiving break. Her dad was a church leader and a highly respected CPA in town. Standing near the church entrance after worship, Jenny filled me in.

The “opportunity” involved buying and selling US Savings Bonds and circulating a “chain” letter. “Is this legal?” I asked. “Yes,” she assured me, “since the actual letter doesn’t use the US Postal Service. My dad says it’s totally legit.”

*Sounds shady, I remember thinking. But if Jenny’s dad says it’s okay, it must be okay.*

Pushing past my better judgment—my eager mind ignoring my hesitant heart—I plunked down \$37.50 to buy the letter and went to the bank and bought two US Savings

bonds for \$18.75 each—made out to the guy at the top of the list on the letter—another \$37.50. Now I’m into this thing to the tune of \$75. Not a lot of money today, but for a college student in the late 1960s . . . a lot of money.

The next afternoon, I drove back to my college. Walking into the dorm room, I filled my roommate in on what I had done. His face was a

***Walking into the dorm room, I filled my roommate in on what I had done. His face was a blend of skepticism and wonder.***

blend of skepticism and wonder.

“Is this legal?” Steve asked. “Sure,” I said, borrowing some of Jenny’s confidence.

A few days later, I sold my chain letter and savings bond to two equally gullible classmates.

The scheme swept our campus like a tsunami. In a matter of less than a week, more than a hundred wide-eyed, eager—and equally broke—college men had jumped in. In a few more days, men from other universities within driving distance of my school learned of the opportunity (scheme) and got involved.

A week later, after two stern warnings from our Dean of Students, including a threat to expel me, I went from door to door in each men’s residence hall and begged guys to stop the chain letter. Some, including my cautious roommate, had gotten caught with a financial loss.

“How much did you lose?” I’d ask each man who had swallowed the scheme. “I have been asked—ordered—by the dean to tell you not to try to sell your letter.”

These men were not happy. And so, recording each of these losses in a small spiral notebook, I promised to reimburse them. Working in construction the next summer, I sent thousands of hard-earned dollars to these men to help them recover from my foolishness.

Like Adam, I knew—at least strongly suspected—in my heart that what I was doing was wrong. No one had deceived me. My eyes were wide open. *I’ll work this out later*, I naively figured.

Sure enough.

## **THINKING CONSCIOUSLY, PLANNING CARELESSLY, ACTING FOOLISHLY**

Eve’s husband knew that he was not to eat of the tree. If we could have taken him aside in that dramatic moment and given him a quiz on the ethics of eating the fruit, he would have passed. But when Eve offered him that first bite, he failed.

You and I often pride ourselves on the clarity of our thinking. We seem to make dispassionate analyses, to construct carefully crafted scenarios like puzzle pieces. This affirmation leads to that affirmation, which leads us to the next affirmation. And the next.

On the surface, this looks like a good thing. The trouble comes when decisions must be made in the moment, and our carelessness pushes us to override what we, in our hearts, know to be right. And true.

### ACT NOW, LISTEN LATER

When David saw Bathsheba bathing, he didn't forget God's prohibition against adultery (more about David and Bathsheba later). Thinking that his kingly position would afford him whatever he would need to "work this out later," he pushed past the law of God and the prodding of his conscience and slept with her.

Do you wonder how well David was able to put this horrible travesty behind him in the ensuing weeks? Actually, I'm guessing that, given David's willingness to use his power to abuse his neighbor's wife, and then to cover it up by having her husband murdered, he did just fine. The easily distracted and proud king got busy with his kingly duties. Busy, busy, busy. Then, one day, Nathan the prophet rained on his parade, busting him with the truth.

Once David knew he had been found out, emotions (that should have shouted in the first place) overwhelmed him. A reading of Psalm 51 paints a life-size mural of David's profound regret for making a bad decision (actually, two bad decisions).

When you and I fall prey to lies, the reason is more likely to be pride and less likely

*When you and I fall prey to lies, the cause is more likely to be pride and less likely to be gullibility. In the moment, we think we know better than God. We know in our heart and our conscience what is right, but we choose what is wrong.*

to be gullibility. In the moment, we think we know better than God. We know in our heart and our conscience what is right, but we choose what is wrong.

Sometimes we believe the lie that God will not notice. Sometimes we believe the lie that God will not care. Invariably we believe the lie that somehow it will work out and so we go ahead and do what we want to do.

Back in the garden, Adam knew that God would not be pleased with his actions. Adam knew he and God disagreed; perhaps in that moment he was foolish enough to think that his way was right and God's way was wrong . . . or at least, that he could go ahead with this disobedient choice, he could talk his way out of a corner, and God would understand and forgive.

In the chapters that follow, you and I will consider the kinds of lies that men believe. As you read, please don't lose sight of the reason why we are susceptible to believing them. The root of the issue is pride. We think of ourselves as thoughtful and in control. We think of ourselves as wiser than the God who planned all things from beginning to end. We think we can see the future, disbelieving God and believing ourselves.

But we are called to be obedient soldiers in God's kingdom. We are called to walk with Him as loving husband-shepherds seeking to reflect our Good Shepherd, as fathers seeking to reflect the character of our great Father, or just as men, who simply want to live a holy life. We must take every thought and every emotion captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).

*Jesus, who is  
Himself truth,  
has promised not  
just to reveal truth  
to you and me,  
but to give us the  
strength to obey.*

### **ORTHOPRAXY ROCKS!**

We should be compelled to put aside the lies of our natural father, the devil, and to embrace the life-giving truth and the heart of our adoptive Father, God Himself. To do so we need to learn to both *think* and *feel* in

accordance with God's Word and ways.

**Teach me your way, O LORD,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
unite my heart to fear your name. (Ps. 86:11)**

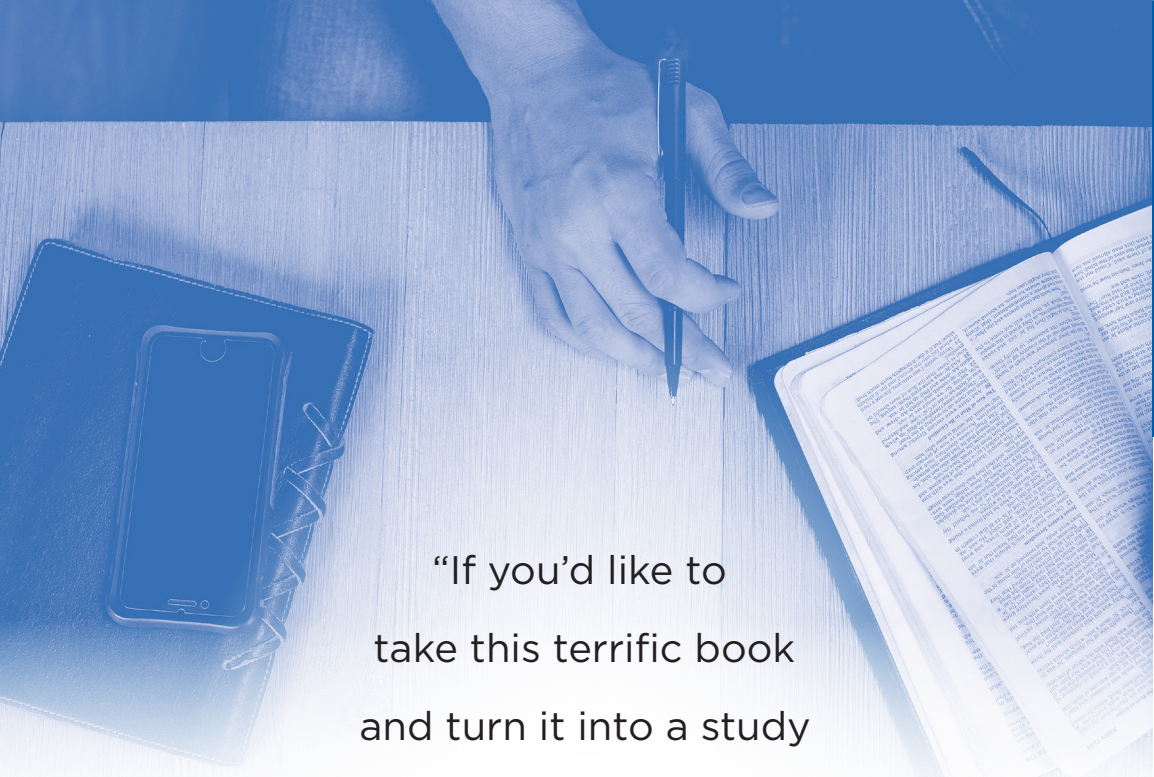
There it is . . . “walk in your truth; unite my heart” . . . correctly feathering together our minds and hearts.

Theologians sometimes have a clever way of putting concepts into single words. They would say that it's not good enough to just embrace *orthodoxy*—right beliefs—but we also need to cultivate *orthopathos*—right feelings. This leads us to exactly what we're pulling for: *orthopraxy*—right behavior. So Adam *knew* what God had told him (orthodoxy). In the moment when Eve handed him the fruit from which she had already taken a bite, he probably felt conflicted. That's when a big dose of *orthopathos*—right feelings integrated with right thinking—would have enabled him to put on the brakes, to stop his wife from revising what God had told him, and to tell the serpent where to go. Literally. *Orthopraxy!* Class dismissed.

Jesus, who is Himself truth, has promised not just to reveal truth to you and me, but to give us the strength to obey, and in so doing, to set us free (John 8:32). To be this kind of a man is to be a free man, to be anchored by the truth, to build our lives on the solid Rock. This is a lifelong struggle; the devil is relentless. Persistent. But we, by God's leading, move from grace to grace, from faith to faith, from truth to truth . . . from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18).

As you read further, my prayer is that the Spirit of God will fill you with wisdom, sound thinking, clear emotions, and the strength to tear down the devil's strongholds. To be a man of truth. Of strength. Of orthopraxy.

So here are forty lies. My hope is that, once identified, these lies can be banished to the pit where they belong and replaced by rock-solid truth and the pure freedom it promises to you.



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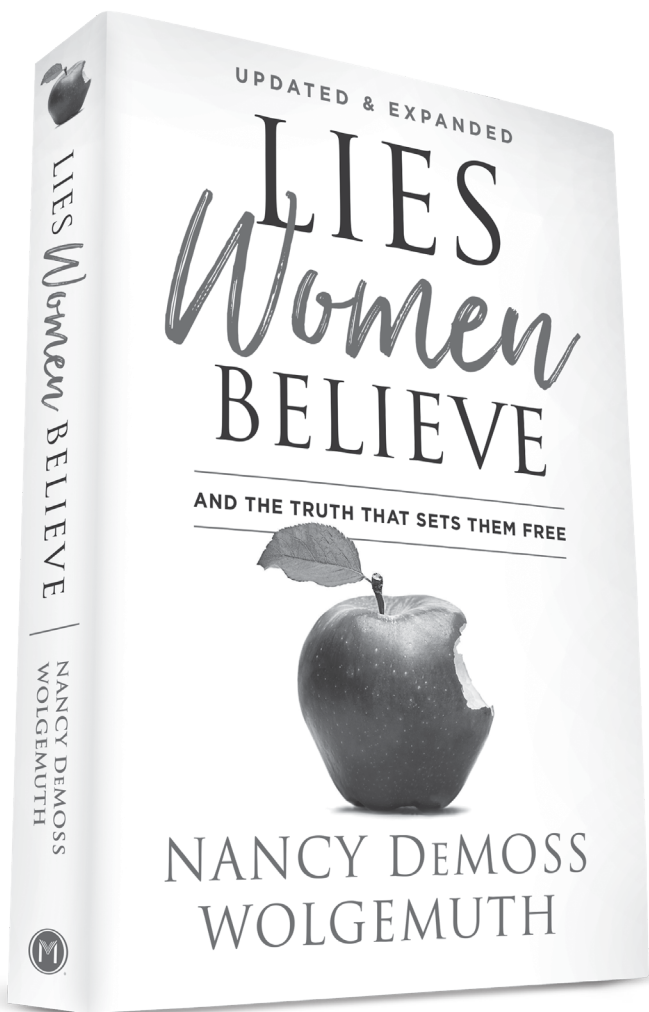
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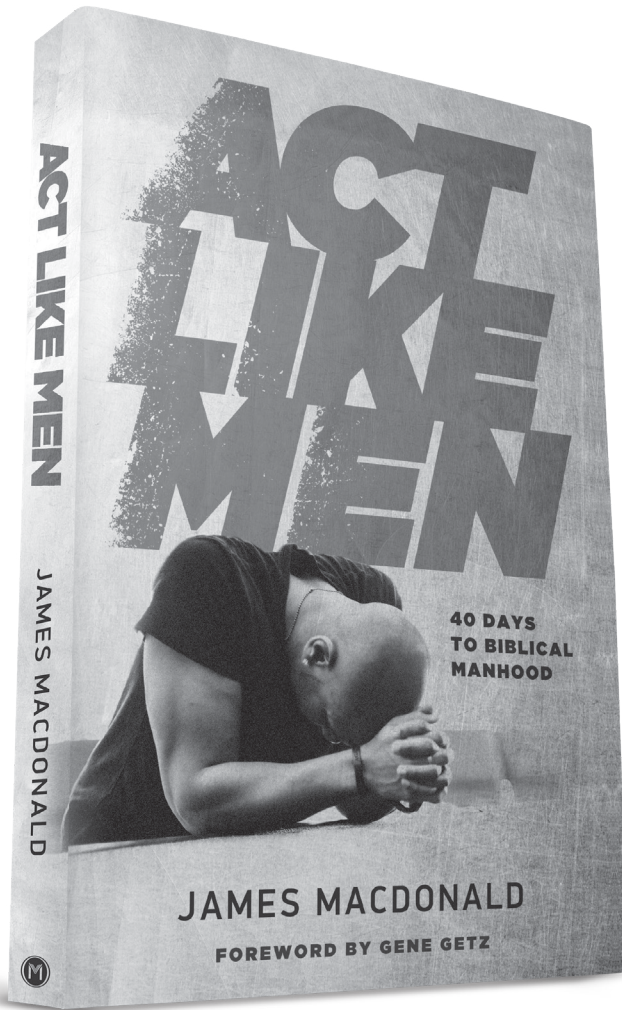
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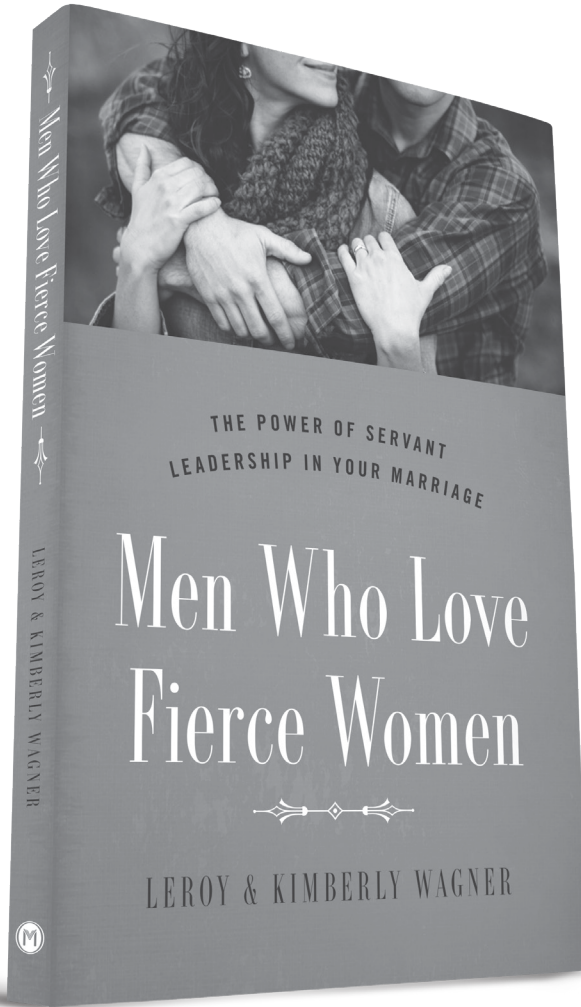
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