LYRICAL DEVOTIONAL · DAY 207

The First Lie Is the Most Dangerous

> *He is a liar and the father of lies.*
> **JOHN 8:44**

Written by Bill Perkins

When Jesus taught us to pray,
“Deliver us from the evil one,”
He was teaching us to ask
for His protection.

And how will God answer
such a prayer?
You may not know this about Jesus:
one way He answers
is by exposing
the devil’s oldest strategy—
a tiny lie,
a small distortion,
a shaded truth,
that bends trust
before it breaks it.

It began in the Garden.
God said,
“Do not eat from the tree.”
But the serpent added a twist:
“Did God really say
you must not eat it
or touch it?” Gen 3:1-3
A tiny lie.
A subtle exaggeration.
A small shadow
added to the words of God.
One added phrase
was enough to bend Eve’s trust.

That’s how the enemy works.
He doesn’t begin
with a bold contradiction.
He begins
with a slight distortion.
A softened boundary.
A shaded truth.
A small lie
that opens the door
to a larger one.

Neuroscientists tell us
the first lie
hits the conscience hardest.
After that,
the brain quiets down.
Like a scent
that fades
each time you breathe it in.
Small lies
are easiest to justify.
“I was late because of traffic,”
when the truth is
you slept in.

But once the first lie slips through,
the next one comes easier.
And the next.
Until the conscience
barely whispers at all—
what Paul calls
a conscience “seared
as with a hot iron.” 1 Tim 4:2

And this is why the process matters.
A seared conscience
cannot guide us.
But God can.

Scripture says
God does not lie. Titus 1:2.
He is light.

No darkness.
No deception.
No shadow in Him (1 Jn 1:5).

Jesus showed us the truth
by describing the nature of Satan
when He told the Pharisees:
“You are of your father the devil…
there is no truth in him.
Whenever he speaks a lie,
he speaks from his own nature,
for he is a liar
and the father of lies.” Jn 8:44

This is why Jesus taught us
to pray daily,
“Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.”
Because the enemy works
in small beginnings.
Tiny distortions.
Little shadows.
The first lie
is the doorway.

So when the evil one
whispers a lie,
and the Holy Spirit convicts,
that is God’s mercy at work.
It is His truth
leading us away from temptation.
It is His light
revealing the shadow.
It is His faithfulness
breaking the pattern
before it hardens.