



Bringing Everything to Light

Unmasking Lies that Masquerade as Truth

How is it possible to differentiate between falsehood and truth? That question cannot be answered accurately without a correct definition of truth - a definition that is applicable to any subject or situation in any culture or to any religious belief. A four-word phrase defines truth in such an all-encompassing manner, and that phrase is *bringing everything to light*.¹

If truth concerning any subject is determined by *bringing everything to light*, then purposeful communication regarding relationships, religion, health, politics, daily challenges, and any other issue of life is possible. Communication based on *bringing everything to light* does not guarantee agreements, but responses and related decisions have to face “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.”

In everyday life, however, *bringing everything to light* is not a priority and, in many situations, deliberate deception is the “norm.” For example:

- In the political arena, can you remember any campaign, debate, legislative discussion, or interview in which *all* the perceived positives and negatives of a subject or person under consideration were presented? Many politicians and political operatives typically avoid *bringing everything to light* and, instead, have mastered “spin” as the usual way of distorting the opposition’s viewpoint while placing their own positions in a more positive light. There are many characteristics of politics, but *bringing everything to light* is not one of them. (See [“Spin”—The Acceptable Lie](#))
- In matters involving personal relationships, does everyone typically *bring everything to light* to describe how he/she personally contributed or responded to difficulties . . . or is blame-shifting the order of the day?
- In sales presentations, do you expect to hear any “negatives” of the product being sold, including any consideration of potential financial difficulty that may result from your buying the product? If *everything was brought to light*, not only would the “pros” and “cons” of the product be presented—along with an accurate evaluation of competing products—but an understanding of your financial situation would also be included in any sales decision.
- In personal finances, what is the response of many taxpayers during tax season? Do they *bring everything to light* or do they try to hide as much as possible—sometimes illegally—from the tax authorities?
- In the workplace, in educational settings, and in athletic contests, can we trust all participants to *bring everything to light* when there is a “foul” or a dispute? Or, instead, do we have officials and fact-finding groups who have the responsibility to *bring everything to light* because the active participants can’t or won’t do so?
- In the business world, is it assumed that companies *bring everything to light* with regard to their contracts and practices, or do “watchdog” agencies exist because corruption and bribery are sometimes the concealed part of business arrangements?
- In the one area—the church—where *bringing everything to light* is not only taught but is expected to be evident, is it? History has proven how difficult it is to discover the truth about inner church workings, personality clashes, questionable financial dealings, and purposefully hidden sins of its members and, sadly, even its leaders.
- In world religions, are key differences *brought to light* or “swept under the rug”? As most of us realize, it is not considered to be “politically correct” or “tolerant” to publicly list, much less discuss or evaluate, the obvious differences between religious beliefs.
- Are all **scientific** aspects of the creation/evolution debate *brought to light*? (While hundreds, perhaps thousands, of scientific facts are not examined, an example of such an omission is **Fossils Reflect Life’s Original Diversity** at <http://www.icr.org/fossil-record/> and another example is “Molecular Machines” by Michael Behe—author of *Darwin’s Black Box*—at http://www.arn.org/docs/behe/mb_mm92496.htm)

- Are all aspects of “sexual freedom” communicated to youth and young adults? (Read about the epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases and see how significant consequences of “sexual freedom” are *not brought to light* for a generation that has crippled their own future: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203937504574252362862563486.html>)
- Are physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological aspects of abortion *brought to light*? (See **Abortion Procedures and Abortion Risks**: <http://www.pregnancycenters.org/abortion.html>)
- Are all aspects of the global warming debate adequately known or evaluated? (See **Global Warming Myth** from the Cato Institute: http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=9406 and **Global Warming Petition Project**: <http://www.oism.org/pproject/>—signed by 31,000 American scientists)
- Are all contributing reasons for the current economic crisis being examined or have some powerful people who were instrumental in the financial debacle “keeping their heads down” in order to insure the part they played will remain hidden? (See [The Root Cause of Current Economic Troubles](#))
- Is every aspect of the medical care/insurance overhaul by our government *brought to light* or is “spin” the usual order of the day? *Refer back to the first bullet point in this article.*

A lie is the inevitable result when *everything is not brought to light.*

Trying to determine “What is truth?” is a formidable task when *bringing everything to light* is avoided. When *everything is not brought to light*, the substitution of “Truth is in the eye of the beholder” takes center stage. In reality, the “eye of the beholder” is completely unnecessary if *bringing everything to light* is the basis for determining truth. The “eye of the beholder” concept also introduces a significant obstacle if *bringing everything to light* is to be accomplished. That obstacle is the natural self-centeredness (pride) of every person. When “self” dominates the announced quest for truth in any subject, then *bringing everything to light* is impossible. This means that “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth” will not be revealed.

Self-centered people cannot help allowing personal perspectives to impact every consideration. The self-inspired “spin” inevitably leads to false (incomplete, distorted, or prearranged) conclusions. Self-oriented people *will not bring anything to light* that will expose their inherent pride, even if it means twisting or hiding relevant facts on very significant issues. As a result, lying—*not bringing everything to light*—is inevitable when self-centered people are left to their own devices.

Unless a person is transformed from within (a dramatic character change), lying is a way of life that colors every relationship and endeavor to some degree. This conclusion of “lifestyle lying” may seem overly harsh until one reviews the full-orbed meaning of *bringing everything to light*.

Bringing everything to light includes all of the following:

- ◆ no pretense or deception;
- ◆ sincerity, honesty, no hint of corruption;
- ◆ openness (even confession) with regard to personal preconceptions and biases;
- ◆ lack of concealment in all aspects of any subject or project under consideration;
- ◆ eagerness to discover everything related to a subject being evaluated;
- ◆ all related facts are displayed, not simply those that lead to a biased conclusion;
- ◆ decisions are based on a consideration of all facts, not feelings or personal preferences

Bringing everything to light is also related to “doing” rather than highlighting verbal skills and perceived intellectual prowess. In other words, bringing everything to light is always accompanied by comments and actions that are in stark contrast to deception or concealment.

When truth—bringing everything to light—reigns, the “end does not justify the means” but instead, the “means (bringing everything to light) will justify the end.”

Basically, if a person or group avoids, conceals, or distorts any aspect of a problem or challenge and then provides an answer, that answer is a lie. A lie is the inevitable result when *everything is not brought to light.*

When part of the truth is deliberately withheld, some people have difficulty in describing that deception as a lie. Instead, “half-truth” is a “less offensive” term that many use to describe such deceit. In reality, a “half-truth” is a lie since everything is not brought to light.

The key to *bringing everything to light* in order to achieve “truth-full” conclusions is not accomplished by having self-oriented people work harder to reveal or communicate truth. Predictably, self-oriented people work diligently to hide truth (*not bring everything to light*) in order to get their own way or make themselves “look better.” Additionally, people are so naturally self-centered that they cannot accurately see this detriment and, given a chance to evaluate that condition, they will often avoid it. (See [Are You a Loving Person?](#))

In light of the challenges that confront each of us in our personal lives and relationships—not to mention the many issues in politics, religion, science, education, and international concerns—wouldn’t it be comforting to know that *bringing everything to light* was the regular routine for truth to be determined? That would truly be good news. On the other hand, since “self” naturally dominates any aspect of life apart from God’s intervention, the global practice of *bringing everything to light* can be hoped for, but it won’t happen. Across the globe, self interest rules. Predictably, when the “me, myself, and I” tyrant is on the throne, *bringing everything to light* (determining truth) stays in a locked box.

Does that conclusion of “truth in a locked box” sound hopeless? Globally, it is. Personally, it doesn’t have to be. Not one of us has any control over others’ attempts to keep the light switch of truth in the “off” position. Each of us can, however, ask God for His help in *bringing everything to light* in every area of our life and relationships.

The primary aspect of truth that is being referenced in this article is the revelation of quantifiable facts, the specific essentials that comprise “the whole story” of any subject under consideration. These types of facts can be observed by using our five senses. There is another dimension of truth that is spiritually impacting and comes from God. This divine Truth provides clear guidelines for everyday life and relationships as well as giving hope for the life to come. When anyone faithfully responds to this Truth, initially by believing in Jesus Christ for salvation (John 3:16)² that is followed by loving obedience to biblical truth (1 John 5:3)³, then the challenges mentioned earlier in this article will simply be opportunities whereby all facts are consistently *brought to light*. (See [Truth is Personal. Not Merely a Concept](#))

Footnotes

¹The definition of truth in this article is a summary of the multi-faceted dimensions of truth as found in any dictionary and a study of Greek and Hebrew words for “truth” in the Bible.

²The text of John 3:16 states, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

³The text of 1 John 5:3 states, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.”