

# Proverbs 12:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

## Analysis

---

He that speaks truth shows forth righteousness, but a false witness deceit. The parallel structure equates truth-telling with righteousness, false witness with deceit. Speaking truth is moral obligation, not merely practical expedient. False witness (ed shaker - lying testimony) violates the ninth commandment and perverts justice. Truth-telling manifests righteousness; lying manifests wickedness.

## Historical Context

---

Reflects legal context where witness testimony determined guilt or innocence. False witness could result in innocent persons' execution, making truthful testimony essential to justice.

## Related Passages

---

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

---

1. How consistently does your speech demonstrate righteousness through truthfulness?
2. What tempts you toward false witness in various contexts?

## Interlinear Text

---

יִפְּ יֵה	אֶ מוֹנֶה	יִגֵּ יד	צֶדֶק	וֵעֵד	שָׁקֶר יֵם
He that speaketh	truth	sheweth forth	righteousness	witness	but a false
H6315	H530	H5046	H6664	H5707	H8267

מְרִמָּה:

deceit

H4820

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Proverbs 14:25** (Witness): A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.

**Proverbs 14:5** (Witness): A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

**Proverbs 6:19** (Witness): A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

**Proverbs 24:28** (Witness): Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.

**Proverbs 19:5** (Witness): A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

**Proverbs 21:28** (Witness): A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

**Proverbs 19:28** (Witness): An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.

**Matthew 15:19** (Witness): For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: