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THE HALF TRUTH - PART 1

I have been told that all half-truths are lies. But what is a lie? It is a word or action that is purposely intended to deceive or to conceal the truth. A deliberate omission of a fact makes it a lie when it is concealed. A classic example of this comes from scripture in the story of Abram and Sarai in Genesis 12.

Abram and Sarai had recently settled in Canaan. When a severe famine came upon the land, they went to Egypt where there was food for them and for their herds.

But Abram was fearful as he had not yet developed the faith that God would protect them. He was likely 76-80 years old at this time, making Sarai 66-70. Even at that age, Sarai was a very beautiful woman. She was Abram's wife, but also his half-sister, the daughter of his father, but not his mother.

Abram feared that the Egyptians would take Sarai because of her beauty and deliver her to Pharaoh to become one of his wives. If they knew that she was already married to Abram, he thought that they would kill him in order that Pharaoh could take her as his wife.

Therefore, Abram told Sarai to only tell them that she was his sister and Abram would also say the same thing. They would conceal the fact that she was also Abram's wife. This was a half-truth.

Sure enough, that is what happened. They both claimed that she was Abram's sister, and she was taken to Pharaoh to be his wife.

We will continue this subject in the next issue.