



Speak the Word Church
International
Women's Bible Study
Friday, October 2nd
6:30pm to 8:00pm

Phonies, Fakers & Forsakers Part 2



Agenda 6:30pm-8:00pm

*Women who have preregistered should attend the online meeting and respond to the invitation that you had received after registration to log into the Bible Study through Zoom.

GOALS & KEY CONCEPTS:

- To cultivate authenticity, genuineness and honesty in our relationship with the Lord and to disallow phoniness, fakeness and forsaking behaviors.
- To understand a biblical framework of authenticity, genuineness, honesty and sincerity in our valued relationships.
- To identify, accept and maximize your "God-connection" relationships and to identify, disallow and minimize the influence of unhealthy relationships in your life.
- To understand the power of godly discernment.
- To learn or increase communication skills to create an environment of biblical authenticity, genuineness and honesty.

ICEBREAKER

- Why does this topic provide interest to you as a woman? What intrigued you?
- What type of relationships are presenting as phony, fake and forsaking in your life? What types of relationships are presenting authenticity, genuineness and honesty?

A. DEFINITIONS:

- Phony or Phoniness** : 1. Intention to deceive or defraud. 2. Having no basis in fact. 3. Making a false show, putting on an appearance. 4. Hypocritical.
- Fake**: 1. Not true, real or genuine. 2. A worthless imitation passed off as genuine. 3. impostor or charlatan 4. To alter, manipulate, to improvise.
- Forsake**: 1. To renounce or turn away from entirely. 2. To abandon, desert or leave. 3. To quit. 4. "maroon" – to put ashore on a desolate island or coast and leave to one's fate (historically).

SCRIPTURES FOUNDATION:

- Ephesians 4:17-31
- Romans 12:9-21
- Exodus 20:16
- John 8:44
- John 14:30
- Hebrews 11:3
- Hebrews 4:12-13
- Judges 13, 14 and 16- Samson & Delilah

A. The Power of Discernment & the Word of God

How can you know if a person is choosing to be phony, fake or forsaking? What determines if they are choosing to engage in phony, fake or forsaking behaviors in a relationship with you? What factors or signs are present in their life? What constitutes your perspective of seeing their behaviors as phony, fake or forsaking?

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:3 *“By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.”* The Lord established the creation of the world by His words and gave us His Word. *Hebrews 4:12-13 states “¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.* Thus, the standard of the Word of God operating in our lives is the determining factor by which we engage with others and the perspective that we should have for various kinds of situations that we find ourselves in. As a Spirit-filled believer you have access to “discern” spirits and use the wisdom of God in terms of identifying how your relationships will proceed forward.

There will be times in your life when the Lord directs you in your relationships and that constitutes certain actions where decisions have to be made where these relationships are required to proceed in a certain direction such as making more positive connections with the other party, mending the relationship or choosing to sever the relationship. Moreover, it is about how you choose to engage with others in terms of your godly behavior. The Word of God must determine how you engage with others and knowing that it is the authority by which you conduct yourself. The Word of God will show you the type of people who are your “God Connections” and the people who are a detriment to your life because of your experiences

Exodus 20:16 *“You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.”*

As believers, we must remember what the Word of the Lord says i.e. Thou shall not lie. It is that simple. Tell the truth. Phoniness, fakeness and forsaking all stems from the deviations of lies or testifying against a neighbor. The Word of God is truth and when you are filled with the truth of God's Word it will illuminate your life in and give you the authority to see who you are around. There is a difference between having a lack of information about your life and then choosing to operate in phony, fake and forsaking behaviors.

Jesus confronted these types of behaviors with His disciples by informing them that Satan "has nothing in Him" indicating that because He was the Son of God and the truth was that Satan's influence had no power over him to influence his life at all (John 14:30). Jesus identifies Satan as the father of lies and helps us to understand that we do not operate in these types of godly ways as a believer. (John 8:44)

Questions:

- a) How have you used godly discernment from the Word of God to identify phony, fake or forsaking relationships?
- b) Do you have any examples where you had to use godly discernment to make positive connections? Have you ever had to mend a relationship? Have you ever had to sever or disconnect from an unhealthy relationship because you chose to live by the Word of God and you chose to not be phony, fake or forsaking?
- c) List a relationship in your life where used discernment from the Word of God to identify the following. What happened and what was the outcome of the relationship.

1. A positive connection

2. Mending a relationship

3. Severing an unhealthy relationship

B. Authentic Communication & Relational Proximity

How can you have a relationship that is authentic? How can you protect yourself and others from phoniness, fakeness and forsaking behaviors? It all starts with communication and how you choose to relate to others. Relational proximity and communication indicate the position that a person holds in your life and how much access they have in your life.

The Bible is truly clear about relationships and indicating how Christians are supposed to relate to each other in order to maintain godliness including having discernment when you are around phony, fake or forsaking people.

Ephesians 4:17-31

¹⁷With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. ¹⁸Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. ¹⁹They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

²⁰But that isn't what you learned about Christ. ²¹Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²²throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

²⁵So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. ²⁶And "don't sin by letting anger control you."^[d] Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

²⁸If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. ²⁹Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

³⁰And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own,^[e] guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³²Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

REFLECTION:

LIST 5 key items from the scripture above (Ephesians 4:17-31) that helps you to identify phony, fake or forsaking behaviors and how to manage it as it relates to yourself, a relationship in your life or a situation in your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection,^(a) and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.^(b) ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

"I will take revenge;
I will pay them back,"^(c)
says the LORD.

²⁰ Instead,

"If your enemies are hungry, feed them.
If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap
burning coals of shame on their heads."^(d)

²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

REFLECTION:

LIST 5 key items from the scripture above (Romans 12:9-21) that helps you to identify phony, fake or forsaking behaviors and how to manage it as it relates to yourself, a relationship in your life or a situation in your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Proverbs 2:6

For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 10:18-20

Hiding hatred makes you a liar; slandering others makes you a fool. 19 Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.20 The words of the godly are like sterling silver; the heart of a fool is worthless.

Proverbs 12:17

An honest witness tells the truth; a false witness tells lies.

Proverbs 12:19

Truthful words stand the test of time but lies are soon exposed.

Proverbs 15:28

The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking; the mouth of the wicked overflows with evil words.

Proverbs 17: 27-28

A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered.²⁸ Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.

LIST 5 key items from the scriptures above (the book of Proverbs) that helps you to identify phony, fake or forsaking behaviors and how to manage it as it relates to yourself, a relationship in your life or a situation in your life.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

C. WOMEN IN THE BIBLE ~ TYPES OF PHONIES, FAKERS AND FORSAKERS

The Word of God identifies behaviors and characteristics of inauthenticity within the scriptures and reveals certain women who had deep character flaws which presented them as phony, fake or forsaking in their narratives. We need to learn and study these behaviors and how they are presented in the scripture so we can learn from them and understand what needs to be applied to our lives.

1. Delilah - The Betrayal of Samson - Judges 16:1-30

Judges 13:1

13 Again the Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight, so the LORD handed them over to the Philistines, who oppressed them for forty years.

²In those days a man named Manoah from the tribe of Dan lived in the town of Zorah. His wife was unable to become pregnant, and they had no children.³The angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and said, "Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son. ⁴So be careful; you must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food.⁵ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines."

[...] ²⁴When her son was born, she named him Samson. And the LORD blessed him as he grew up. ²⁵And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him while he lived in Mahaneh-dan, which is located between the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol.

Judges 14:1

14 One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye. ²When he returned home, he told his father and mother, "A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me."

³His father and mother objected. "Isn't there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites you could marry?" they asked. "Why must you go to the pagan Philistines to find a wife?"

But Samson told his father, "Get her for me! She looks good to me." ⁴His father and mother didn't realize the LORD was at work in this, creating an opportunity to work against the Philistines, who ruled over Israel at that time.

⁵As Samson and his parents were going down to Timnah, a young lion suddenly attacked Samson near the vineyards of Timnah. ⁶At that moment the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him, and he ripped the lion's jaws apart with his bare hands. He did it as easily as if it were a young goat. But he didn't tell his father or mother about it. ⁷When Samson arrived in Timnah, he talked with the woman and was very pleased with her.

⁸Later, when he returned to Timnah for the wedding, he turned off the path to look at the carcass of the lion. And he found that a swarm of bees had made some honey in the

carcass. ⁹ He scooped some of the honey into his hands and ate it along the way. He also gave some to his father and mother, and they ate it. But he didn't tell them he had taken the honey from the carcass of the lion.

¹⁰ As his father was making final arrangements for the marriage, Samson threw a party at Timnah, as was the custom for elite young men. ¹¹ When the bride's parents^[a] saw him, they selected thirty young men from the town to be his companions.

¹² Samson said to them, "Let me tell you a riddle. If you solve my riddle during these seven days of the celebration, I will give you thirty fine linen robes and thirty sets of festive clothing. ¹³ But if you can't solve it, then you must give me thirty fine linen robes and thirty sets of festive clothing."

"All right," they agreed, "let's hear your riddle."

¹⁴ So he said:

"Out of the one who eats came something to eat;
out of the strong came something sweet."

Three days later they were still trying to figure it out. ¹⁵ On the fourth^[b] day they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband to explain the riddle for us, or we will burn down your father's house with you in it. Did you invite us to this party just to make us poor?"

¹⁶ So Samson's wife came to him in tears and said, "You don't love me; you hate me! You have given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer."

"I haven't even given the answer to my father or mother," he replied. "Why should I tell you?" ¹⁷ So she cried whenever she was with him and kept it up for the rest of the celebration. At last, on the seventh day he told her the answer because she was tormenting him with her nagging. Then she explained the riddle to the young men.

¹⁸ So before sunset of the seventh day, the men of the town came to Samson with their answer:

"What is sweeter than honey?
What is stronger than a lion?"

Samson replied, "If you hadn't plowed with my heifer, you wouldn't have solved my riddle!"

¹⁹ Then the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him. He went down to the town of Ashkelon, killed thirty men, took their belongings, and gave their clothing to the men who had solved his riddle. But Samson was furious about what had happened, and he went back home to live with his father and mother. ²⁰ So his wife was given in marriage to the man who had been Samson's best man at the wedding.

Judges 16:4

⁴ Sometime later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek. ⁵ The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "Entice Samson to tell you what makes

him so strong and how he can be overpowered and tied up securely. Then each of us will give you 1,100 pieces^[a] of silver.”

⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me what makes you so strong and what it would take to tie you up securely.”

⁷ Samson replied, “If I were tied up with seven new bowstrings that have not yet been dried, I would become as weak as anyone else.”

⁸ So the Philistine rulers brought Delilah seven new bowstrings, and she tied Samson up with them. ⁹ She had hidden some men in one of the inner rooms of her house, and she cried out, “Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!” But Samson snapped the bowstrings as a piece of string snaps when it is burned by a fire. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.

¹⁰ Afterward Delilah said to him, “You’ve been making fun of me and telling me lies! Now please tell me how you can be tied up securely.”

¹¹ Samson replied, “If I were tied up with brand-new ropes that had never been used, I would become as weak as anyone else.”

¹² So Delilah took new ropes and tied him up with them. The men were hiding in the inner room as before, and again Delilah cried out, “Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!” But again, Samson snapped the ropes from his arms as if they were thread.

¹³ Then Delilah said, “You’ve been making fun of me and telling me lies! Now tell me how you can be tied up securely.”

Samson replied, “If you were to weave the seven braids of my hair into the fabric on your loom and tighten it with the loom shuttle, I would become as weak as anyone else.”

So, while he slept, Delilah wove the seven braids of his hair into the fabric. ¹⁴ Then she tightened it with the loom shuttle.^[a] Again she cried out, “Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!” But Samson woke up, pulled back the loom shuttle, and yanked his hair away from the loom and the fabric.

¹⁵ Then Delilah pouted, “How can you tell me, ‘I love you,’ when you don’t share your secrets with me? You’ve made fun of me three times now, and you still haven’t told me what makes you so strong!” ¹⁶ She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it.

¹⁷ Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. “My hair has never been cut,” he confessed, “for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else.”

¹⁸ Delilah realized he had finally told her the truth, so she sent for the Philistine rulers. “Come back one more time,” she said, “for he has finally told me his secret.” So, the Philistine rulers returned with the money in their hands. ¹⁹ Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her

lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down,^[2] and his strength left him.

²⁰ Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!"

When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." But he didn't realize the LORD had left him.

²¹ So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison.

QUESTIONS OF REFLECTION:

1. What did Delilah do in the life of Samson? Which specific ways was she phony, fake or forsaking?
2. What was present in Samson's lifestyle in terms of being inauthentic? What caused him to get into these types of situations with women and the Philistines as he did?
3. Delilah was not listed as the wife of Samson, and it appears he had various relationships with other woman in the context of the scripture? What does this indicate about the godly mandate upon Samson's life vs how he lived?
4. It appears that Samson was attracted to the same type of woman in terms of encountering someone who told his secrets. What does this story teach us about the type of woman that we should not be? What did these women do specifically in the story to demonstrate their phony, fake or forsaking behaviors?

EXTRA NOTES: