



## Biblical Perspectives in Everyday Life

# **“SPIN”—THE ACCEPTABLE LIE**

If there is anything inherent to an election season, it is “spin.” This politically-motivated, media-driven practice has developed into an “art form” of deception.

Due to its deceptiveness, “spin” is often difficult to recognize. Some “spin” subtly presents its biased perspective in mild terms, while more blatant “spin” messages discredit an opponent or competing viewpoint in very derogatory terms.

One kind of “spin” is to accumulate facts that support a viewpoint, hide other facts that discredit that perspective, and then present the result as “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” Another technique of “spin” is to present all the facts, interpret these findings through a biased perspective, and present the conclusion as the only possible result. Yet another “spin” practice is to ask questions of a candidate and then broadcast only those portions (“sound bites”) of the answer, often out of context, that place that person in a negative light. Not surprisingly, some “spin” attempts do not correlate to factual reality at all and make no attempt to do so.

The practice and acceptance of “spin” is so prevalent that “spin rooms” are set up after political events. In these settings, media representatives become the willing conduit for “spin doctors” to espouse their various viewpoints.

Most of us know that “spin” is not a recent phenomenon. Many millenniums ago, Adam tried “spinning” to dodge personal responsibility for his own failure. Genesis chapter 3 gives an account of the first “spin room” and its painful outcome.

Yet, during an election cycle, “spin” often accomplishes its results by sacrificing truth on the altars of self-centeredness and political expediency. Political figures push truth into the shadows and promote deception (“spin”) to center stage, all the while relishing the spotlight of personal glorification. When we get to the bottom line with regard to “spin,” we can categorically say, “Spin is a lie.”

In order to diminish the effects of “spin,” truth needs a rebirth, not only in definition but also in practice. If we are to recognize and repudiate “spin,” we need to embrace truth and its meaning.

**Truth means** firm, sure, reliable, verifiable, steadfast, certain, faithful, established, trustworthy, indisputable, unchangeable, without pretence or deception, devoid of any hint of falsehood, without corruption, unconcealed, and complete with all the facts. If we tried to summarize a concise definition of truth, it could be **“bringing everything to light.”**

Truth, as opposed to “spin,” puts everything in the spotlight. While “spin” uses selective data to exalt one person or viewpoint over another, truth simply places *all* facts in the open. One person or one viewpoint is not the issue . . . Truth is the issue.

When truth lives, “spin” dies. What a difference it would make if there were “truth rooms” with “truth doctors” who really did live and speak according to “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.”

*Go to the article “Truth” in the Studies to Help You Grow section of the WordTruth website for a study on God’s view of truth.*