

Hi, my name is Eleanor White, and my story is called "I Still Stumble."

I've been attending Lindsey's Bible study, and one of the topics was on direction and guidance, and it pertains to my story today.

So, I was shopping at Costco and I ran into a neighbor who happens to be our homeowner's association's president of the Architectural Committee, and she says to me, "I notice, Eleanor, you're painting your house. It looks pretty . . ." and blah, blah, blah.

I told her about the colors, and then she asked me a question, "Did you submit the paperwork to get it approved?" My answer was "yes" when in fact it was "no." I did not get all the approval process done, only part of it. I had picked up the paperwork, so in my mind I partially did it, but I didn't completely do it, but I lied to her, and I knew that when I was answering. I knew it was wrong right then and there. It just came out.

It might have been because of fear that she is the president and I wanted to seem like I was doing the right thing, or I was afraid she was going to tell me stop painting, and I already had the painters there. But anyway, whatever the reason was, I chose to do the wrong thing. As we continued with our small talk, I felt guilty the whole time. On one side of me, the Holy Spirit was prompting me come clean with this, just tell her, tell her the truth; but the other side of me kept saying no, don't do it, just leave it alone. She'll never find out.

As I continued to shop, the Holy Spirit was still prompting me come clean with it, and then He gave me another opportunity. I ran into her at the bread section, and we were talking about what kind of breads the kids like, and the Holy Spirit says to tell her, tell her now, but I kept hearing this other voice saying no, don't tell her, no, no, no, no, so, of course, I didn't tell her. I just kept shopping, but the whole time I felt guilty and was hoping that maybe I would just pass her on my way home so I could pull over to talk to her, but I knew that it was wrong. I knew I was going to have to come clean with her.

So finally, when I got home, I unloaded most of the stuff, but not all of it. I couldn't even think about anything else but the lie. I went ahead and confessed to her by sending her an email right away, apologized and came clean. She emailed me back and was forgiving and said it's not too late to get the approval. I just felt so much better after clearing things up and just finally listening to, and heeding, the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 3:5 says "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct and make straight and clean your paths." He was doing that, but I was being resistant, and I'm glad that I did get back on track, even though I stumbled there. And also, the verse in Psalms 37 says, "Delight yourself of the Lord and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart. Trust and be confident in Him and He will bring it to pass." That's another really good one.

Lindsey said, "Don't let the devil take you." Of course, occasionally that'll happen in our lives like it did with me, and it could be a bigger thing next time, but the important thing is that I confessed, took direction and guidance from the Holy Spirit instead of the devil, got out of that mess and got back on track! Thank You, Jesus!