

LETTER 30

FATIGUE

Wormwood has been an utter failure. Screwtape not only scolds Wormwood for his incompetence but threatens his very existence as well. The patient is frightened and thinks himself a coward, but he has behaved well during an air raid on his town. He did everything demanded of him and more. However, war can wear you down, and Screwtape instructs Wormwood to capitalize on the man's fatigue in hopes of weakening his resolve. In addition, he tells him to manipulate the man's emotions with the word "real".

Whatever men expect they soon come to think they have a right to: the sense of disappointment can, with very little skill on our part, be turned into a sense of injury. – Screwtape

Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 21:12-19. Compare the difference in the way Satan treats his demons to the way God treats His disciples. What is the relationship based on? ¶ 1

2. What does Screwtape say that fatigue and unexpected demands can produce? Provide an example of a time when a "sense of disappointment" turned into a "sense of injury" in your own life? ¶ 2

3. To produce the best results from fatigue, Screwtape says he needs to feed the man false hopes. What false hopes does Screwtape want Wormwood to feed to the man? How can false hopes be a danger to us in our Christian walk? ¶ 2

4. Read Hebrews 11:1. How does the hope Paul describes in this passage differ from the false hope that the world promises?

5. Screwtape admits that demons are comforted when they see us blow our top. Read Romans 5:3-5. What spiritual principal do we need to produce when we are fatigued and angered? Why is it important? ¶ 2

6. According to Screwtape, if a demon cannot make an intellectual attack on the patient's faith, what should he attack? Why is an emotional battle often an easier way for Satan to attack than an intellectual battle—especially when a man is fatigued? ¶ 4

7. What are the two ways in which humans use the word "real"? What example was provided for each? ¶ 4

a.

b.

LETTER 31

THE OTHER SIDE

Wormwood has come begging his uncle for compassion after letting his patient escape safely into Heaven. In this last letter, Screwtape is unsympathetic and furious with his nephew as he hates to see "human vermin" be cleansed by the blood of Christ. In no uncertain terms, Screwtape assures Wormwood that he is the stronger of the two demons, and now that the patient has been lost to the Enemy, he promises Wormwood there will be hell to pay.

There was a sudden clearing of his eyes (was there not?) as he saw you for the first time, and recognised the part you had had in him and knew that you had it no longer. – Screwtape

Discussion Questions

1. What, ultimately, happens to the patient? ¶s 2 and 3

2. How would you describe the patient's "sudden clearing of the eyes" as he saw Wormwood for the first time on the other side of death? Have you ever experienced "a sudden clearing of the eyes" in some way? What did you gain as a result of that experience? ¶ 2

3. The man died a horrific death, but Screwtape seems to suggest that the man got off relatively easy. How so? ¶ 3

4. What sort of sensory descriptions or insights did the man experience in the aftermath of his death? ¶ 5

5. Read the following verses Job 19:25-27 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-57. What do these verses say about our experience with death?

6. Screwtape says to Wormwood, "As he saw you, he also saw Them." Who is the "Them" and how did the patient respond to them? ¶ 4

7. Who else did the man see upon death? How was being in the presence of God different for both the man and Wormwood? ¶ 5