

Letter 13: Personal Pleasure

The more often he feels without acting, the less he will be able ever to act, and, in the long run, the less he will be able to feel. – Screwtape

1. What keeps you from enjoying God's creation or the simple pleasures in life? How can the simple pleasures of life be spiritually nourishing?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape wants Wormwood to remove simple pleasures like “enjoying country crickets or collecting stamps or drinking cocoa” from his patient's life. What are some examples of innocent pleasures that if you stopped enjoying, might weaken your spiritual life?

- a) Playing music, creating art, or simply being creative.
- b) Going on hikes, camping, hunting, picnics, or being outdoors.
- c) Participating in sports and athletic events.
- d) Spending time with friends and family.
- e) Other _____.

3. Screwtape says the more often you think about doing something but don't, the weaker your resolve to do it eventually becomes. Name something you've always wanted to do in regards to your faith, but haven't yet. What's holding you back?

4. Habits are built by repetition. Why are habits important when considering our commitment to God?

5. **Bible Study Question** - Read 2 Timothy 1:14 and 1 John 5:18. What is the "asphyxiating cloud" that Screwtape is referring to? How do we get to that point where we are surrounded by God's "asphyxiating cloud"?

Letter 14: Humility

The Enemy wants to bring the man to a state of mind in which he could design the best cathedral in the world, and know it to be the best, and rejoice in the fact, without being any more (or less) or otherwise glad at having done it than he would be if it had been done by another. – Screwtape

1. How is being humble different from having a low self-opinion?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape instructs Wormwood to make sure the patient celebrates his own talents and accomplishments but not those of his friends. How hard would it be for you to rejoice in your friend's talents and accomplishments in the following situations?

- a) Your friend receives a full college scholarship to a great college; you were barely accepted into community college.
- b) Your friend scored the winning basket in the game while you sat on the bench.
- c) Your friend is nominated most beautiful; your picture is left out of the yearbook.
- d) Your friend gets a new car; you're still riding the bus.
- e) Your friend aces every test without studying; you study hard and make C's

3. Get out a dictionary and define the word "humility" and "false modesty". Which do you think God is more likely to honor and why?

4. Why is it bad for a person who really is attractive or intelligent to believe they are not?

5. **Bible Study Question** - According to Ephesians 4:2, what is the type of humility that God wants from us? Where does humility begin in Mark 12:30-31?