

The Screwtape Letters

Letter 8: How God Helps Us Grow: the Law of Undulation

Key Concepts

- Undulation Free Will
- Amphibian Irresistible
- Eternal Irrefutable
- Time

Strategies

1. Screwtape reminds Wormwood that humans are amphibians. We are part spirit and part animal. Because we are not pure spirits we are changeable. We never stay the same. We are getting older. We are becoming kinder or meaner, at least slightly. We are feeling better about the world and ourselves or worse, but not the same. We go through a series of troughs and peaks, mountains and valleys. This is the **Law of Undulation**.
2. God makes use of the troughs to bring us closer to himself. God wants us to freely become more like him and refuses to be irresistible or indisputable. Sometimes God will give his presence to his people, but not always. God withdraws his presence so that we come to him out of love and duty rather than simply to get something from him. It is dangerous to the devil when we obey God even when he doesn't seem to be present or helping us.

Questions

1. Have you ever thought about being part spirit and part animal? How does that affect our spiritual life: How might it help our spiritual life?

- 2.** Are you aware of the Law of Undulation? Do you find your emotions or circumstances changing frequently? How does that help you deal with difficult times?

- 3.** How do you feel to hear someone say that we grow closer to God in the troughs? Have you found that to be true in your life? Can you share an example of how you have grown through tough times?

- 4.** How do you feel when you experience God's absence?

- 5.** Have you experienced times when you did something out of duty even when you didn't want to do it? What does it mean? What happened?

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The Screwtape Letters

Letter 8: How God Helps Us Grow: the Law of Undulation

Key Concepts

- Undulation Free Will
- Amphibian Irresistible
- Eternal Irrefutable
- Time

Strategies

1. Screwtape reminds Wormwood that humans are amphibians. We are part spirit and part animal. Because we are not pure spirits we are changeable. We never stay the same. We are getting older. We are becoming kinder or meaner, at least slightly. We are feeling better about the world and ourselves or worse, but not the same. We go through a series of troughs and peaks, mountains and valleys. This is the **Law of Undulation**.
2. God makes use of the troughs to bring us closer to himself. God wants us to freely become more like him and refuses to be irresistible or indisputable. Sometimes God will give his presence to his people, but not always. God withdraws his presence so that we come to him out of love and duty rather than simply to get something from him. It is dangerous to the devil when we obey God even when he doesn't seem to be present or helping us.

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