

Letter 2

Wormwood's patient has suddenly become a Christian. Screwtape is not too upset because he believes they can get the patient back. Screwtape suggests that the members in the church the patient attends can be an opportunity to undermine him. He then tells Wormwood that the patient will go through a time of disappointment that can possibly be used to their favor. He also believes that other Christians can undermine the patient's faith. Finally, he reveals that the patient's pride can undermine his faith.

Listening to Letter 2

Strategies of the Devil

- Use the habits of the patient against him
- Use the patient's pride to look down on other Christians
- Work hard on the disappointment that will happen in the weeks following his conversion.
- Use his pride to make him see the shortcomings of other Christians
- He has no real humility yet, so keep him from humbling himself before the Enemy.

Questions

- What habits did you bring into your faith that hindered you?
- What did you think of Christians (or some Christians) before you came to faith? What did you think of them afterwards? Did some Christians hinder your growth? Why?
- Disappointments come with every endeavor. Why do you think God allows them? How do you handle disappointments as a Christian?
- What keeps us focusing on the shortcomings of others while ignoring our own? What has helped you deal with this?
- How can we gain humility?

Letter 3

Screwtape advises Wormwood how to use the situation in the home to neutralize the prayers of the patient and undermine his faith.

Listen to Letter 3

Strategies of the devil

- Keep the patient focused on his inner life.
- Keep the patient praying for peoples' souls, not their everyday life.
- Inflame the usual irritating habits that the patient and the mother have and make him think that she's irritating him on purpose.
- Encourage the patient to have a double standard about his utterances and his mother's utterances.

Questions

- How can our faith influence our family relationships?
- How do your prayers for yourself balance care for your soul with care for your behaviors or habits?
- How do your prayers for other people balance care for their souls and also care for their everyday concerns?
- How do we keep from falling to these four traps to neutralize our prayers?