

The Screwtape Letters

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 balance care for your soul with care for your behaviors or habits?
- How do your prayers for other people balance care for their souls with care for their everyday concerns?
- How do we keep from falling into these four traps to neutralize our prayers?

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Letter 4

Screwtape advises Wormwood how to hinder a Christian's prayer.

Strategies of the devils

- Keep them from praying at all
- Get them to pray spontaneous prayers
- Keep them from realizing the importance of their bodies
- Keep them focused on their own minds and feelings
- Keep them focused on praying to an inaccurate image of God
- Remember they may not really want to get close to God

Questions

- What keeps you from praying?
- Do you pray spontaneously or with guides?
- What makes prayer successful for you? Feelings? How might that be a problem?
- How does your body help or hinder your prayers?
- How does your image of God effect our prayer life?
- What is scary about getting close to God? What might keep you from seeking it?