

The Screwtape Letters

Letter 5: The Danger of Danger

Strategies

With the European war beginning for the British, Wormwood is excited about all the fear and anguish that he sees in his patient. Screwtape realizes that this may be dangerous to their cause and not always helpful.

- Consider whether making the patient an extreme patriot or an ardent pacifist will help bring him to our “Father Below.”
- Hope for cruelty and unchastity for the soldiers involved in the war.
- Beware of war because God will be pleased that many may seek to live for something bigger than themselves, even if it is less than what God wants for them.
- Beware of war because people will know they are going into situations where they might die and are prepared to die. Our best weapon is contented worldliness—when people think they will live forever.
- Our best strategy for death is in costly nursing homes surrounded by people lying about the imminence of death.

Questions

- How can danger, like living in the midst of a war, hinder the cause of Christ? How can it help the cause of Christ?
- How has a personal situation of danger or imminent death affected you? Did it draw you closer to God or push you away from God?
- How do we know if we are one of those people who is infected with “contented worldliness”? What can we do if we are?
- How do you feel talking about death with someone who is sick? How might it help the sick person to talk about their possibly soon death?