

The Screwtape Letters ~ Letter 14 ~ True or False Humility

January 24th, 2021

Before reading the following overview of this Letter, we suggest that you click on the link above to read the short **Letter 14** for today's Illustrated Message, which will help you understand the following message.

We start with what Screwtape says to Wormwood about the patient; *"Your patient has become humble; have you drawn his attention to the fact? All virtues are less formidable to us once the man is aware that he has them, but this is specially true of humility. Catch him at the moment when he is really poor in spirit and smuggle into his mind the gratifying reflection, "By jove! I'm being humble", and almost immediately pride--pride at his own humility—will appear."*

False humility is pride in disguise, and it's a charade that if not repented of, will lead to a fall in one way or another. King Solomon says in **Proverbs 16:18**; *"18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before [a]a fall."*

A good example of true humility can be found in **Philippians 2:1-4**; *"2 Therefore if there is any [a]consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."*

Philippians 2:5-11 continues says this about humility and Christ; *"5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it [a]robbery to be equal with God, 7 but [b]made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

Screwtape continues to say of the patient; *"You must therefore conceal from the patient the true end of Humility. Let him think of it not as self-forgetfulness but as a certain kind of opinion (namely, a low opinion) of his own talents and character. Some talents, I gather, he really has. Fix in his mind the idea that humility consists in trying to believe those talents to be less valuable than he believes them to be."*

God has given us talents and gifts to operate in, and it is not pride to know that you are good at what you do for it is God who gave you the gift, and it's ok to take pride or gratification in the work of your hands, just so long as it does not become an idol of self worship.

For example, if the prophecies that come through you, as the Holy Spirit's vessel, are good and don't fail, you're good, because the Holy Spirit in you keeps you in the Spirit to prophecy according to truth. If any of the gifts operating in you are right on, you're good at what you do because you're listening to and trained by the Holy Spirit, and He gets the glory. The same applies if you're a good tradesman or any career you may be in, if you excel above those around you, it shows that it's a gift from God and you can take pride or satisfaction in it, as long as you don't make it an idol of self worship. This kind of pride or self-satisfaction does not lead to a fall, as you work not as unto man but as unto God, whether in Christian ministry or the secular.

False humility will have a Christian vainly try to underestimate their talents and gifts that God has given them freely to use for His glory, and replace it with a form of Godliness that appears humble, but is void of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 11:29 in the Amplified Bible says; “29 *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable [for He does not withdraw what He has given, nor does He change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call].*”

God isn't doubleminded. He doesn't give a gift and then take it away. But because of the preaching of the gospel, you might get demoted by some anti-Christ employer or you may be persecuted because of your stance for Jesus. If you're the best at your job, whether as a builder, a chef or whatever you do, regardless of the persecutions for the gospel you may go through, that doesn't discredit the excellence of your work and gift.

We know that not all are called to preach in the pulpit although all are called to preach the gospel to lead people to Jesus, not all are called to prophesy, to teach, to administrate – whether in ministry or the secular – that gift is needed to operate with excellence. If you're called to give, then that means you need to work with your hands to draw income to be able to operate in the special gift of giving.

The devil would like to get you on a treadmill, trying to underestimate the gifts and calling which God has given freely to you knowing that it can't be underestimated or undone, and if the devil is successful, you will be just like that mouse in the wheel going nowhere, all in what would appear to be humility but in reality, is pride and deception. You see the devil wants you to reduce God's gifts and calling as if they were nothing, as if anyone could do what you do, and in doing so, deceive you and get you to walk in false humility which is pride. Really when it comes down to it, the gift and calling on a person's life are there, whether they fulfill it or not. God has determined calls for each one of us.

When your good at what God has gifted you with, the best thing you can do is to thank God for the gifts and calling and continue to use them for His Glory. There is a sense of pride, gratification, pleasure and self-satisfaction in that, because God is getting the glory for it all. Don't give your gift second best, give it your best.

I think someone can stand up and acknowledge that they are good at what they do. People may say that is pride in itself. Not so. It would be that way if you make it an idol of it and become narcissistic. But if you're working as unto God and giving glory to Him for the gifts, whether in the secular or in the spiritual gifts, then you have pleasure, satisfaction and pride in what He's given you and you're not walking in false humility. Don't lie about and diminish the gift that God has given you. Will persecutions come because of it, yes, but your motive ought always be to give God the glory for what He's given you and you don't have to make apologies for the gifts.

Again, the devil does not want you to give your best for the Lord. He wants you to give your second or third best. Jesus however, wants what He's given you to be seen by all as we read in **Matthew 5:14-16**; “14 *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

Whatever you do in life, preach the gospel of Jesus. Even in your secular job there will come a time where you will need to talk about what Jesus has done for you. Your colleagues may see a brightness in you, see your extraordinary work, see that you have an appearance of a Christian, see that you don't curse or participate in ungodly conversations, but ultimately you need to open your mouth and preach the gospel; then you are the light of the world and they'll glorify God.

Screwtape says about the patient; “*The great thing is to make him value an opinion for some quality other than truth, thus introducing an element of dishonesty and make believe into the heart of what otherwise threatens to become a virtue. By this method thousands of humans have been brought to think that humility means pretty women trying to believe they are ugly and clever men trying to believe they are fools. And since what they are*

trying to believe may, in some cases, be manifest nonsense, they cannot succeed in believing it and we have the chance of keeping their minds endlessly revolving on themselves in an effort to achieve the impossible.”

Why would you want to reduce the gift and call on your life to lies like this? This is what the devil wants to do you. He doesn't want the image of Christ to shine through you at all! He wants you to take on false humility and reduce your call to nothing. Jesus wants you to step out in your gift and talent and not be ashamed of it or reduce it to unimportant or water it down. Why does the devil want to diminish and water down your gift in your mind? Well, who does he see if you're letting your gift shine? Jesus, whom he does not want to see. If you're giving your best to Jesus, expect persecution because the devil does not want to see Jesus in you.

James 1:16-17 in the Amplified Bible says; *“16 Do not be misled, my beloved brothers and sisters. 17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of lights [the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens], in whom there is no variation [no rising or setting] or shadow [a] cast by His turning [for He is perfect and never changes].”*

Romans 12:3-8 says; *“3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, [a] and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, [b] with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”*

Again, don't listen to the lie of the devil to compromise your gift and see it as being humble. That's false humility. Be the best at what God has called you to do because His gifts are perfect as we just read.

Proverbs 22:29 says; *“Do you see a man skillful and experienced in his work? He will stand [in honor] before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.”*

Ephesians 2:10; *“10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

Screwtape says of the Enemy (God); *“He would rather the man thought himself a great architect or a great poet and then forgot about it, than that he should spend much time and pains trying to think himself a bad one.”*

What it comes down to is that any God given gift that you become good at, the devil wants to diminish, because your gifts, be it gifts of the Holy Spirit or gifts that are used in secular employment, when excelled in, reminds him of God who gave you the gifts and talents. This is why we work not as unto man but unto the Lord because you're working with a spirit of excellence knowing that He sees your work and labour.

Colossians 3:23-24 says; *“23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for [a] you serve the Lord Christ.”*

Screwtape says of the Enemy (God); *“The Enemy will also try to render real in the patient's mind a doctrine which they all profess but find it difficult to bring home to their feelings--the doctrine that they did not create themselves, that their talents were given them, and that they might as well be proud of the colour of their hair. But always and by all methods the Enemy's aim will be to get the patient's mind off such questions, and yours will be to fix it on them.”*

You can see here where the false teaching of evolution comes in. Why doesn't the devil want you to embrace and profess the doctrine of creation? Why doesn't he want you to believe in creationism which is defined as the

belief that the universe and living organisms originate from specific acts of divine creation, as in the biblical account, rather than by natural process such as evolution? Because you were created in God's image and that's the image that he hates.

Colossians 1:16 says; *"16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or [a]principalities or [b]powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."*

Jesus created all things, including Lucifer – the devil, and so no wonder he wants to get God's image out of you because you, and your gifts, reminds him of God.

John 1:1-3 says; *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."*

Jesus, the creator of everything, lives in the Christian in the form of the Holy Spirit. The devil does not want the image of God to be seen or heard in a Christian, and this is why there is such an anti-Christ agenda to stop Christians from prospering physically, mentally, and spiritually in their gifts and callings be it in the church or in the secular settings. The devil has been fighting the Church from the time of its birth until now and is not about to back down, because he knows his time is short, and it's about to run out.

Keep in perspective that it is Jesus in you that the devil is persecuting, it's the image of Christ and his gifts and callings that he wants to rob, kill and destroy from operating thru you, both at Church or in secular settings.

Jesus says in **John 16:33**; *"33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you [a]will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

The Apostle Paul says in **2 Timothy 3:12**; *"12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."*

The reality is, that the godless anti-Christ world we're living in, wants to rob, steal and destroy the image of Christ in you. There may be times of promotion that God will bless you with, but the devil's goal is always to demote and persecute you and your gifts. People and colleagues may like you and see your gifts and talents, but if they're not in the kingdom of God, the adversary will work in them to be against you because of the image of Jesus in you.

Remember what happened to Jesus where it says in **Matthew 5:10-12**; *"10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

Don't take persecutions personally. Jesus said there is a blessing to those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. If they persecuted Him for righteousness, they'll persecute you. Regardless of the severity, there is a blessing. Even in the church if you're stepping out in your gifts and moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, persecutions could come because of jealousy, envy or false humility...which is pride. Are people speaking evil against you because of the call and election on your life? Does that mean that you stop doing what your doing? Absolutely not. What makes your gift good is Jesus, and in that there is great joy, gratification and delight.

John 15:20 says; *"20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also."*

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This scripture really nails it on the head. If Christians say they're not attacking the gift in you, the baptism of the Holy Spirit in you, the gifts of the Spirit of prophecy, tongues and interpretation etc., operating in you, then who are they attacking? Could that possibly be Jesus? They'd say no, not at all because they're Christians and they just don't want to have anything to do with the book of Acts kind of church. No, because in reality they don't want to have anything to do with Jesus and the gifts that He's given you. It's a sober word to think about.

So, in church, out of church, in the secular, on the job, in the sports arena, whatever your gifts and callings are; the devil does not want to see the image of God in you and he'll go to any and every degree to see to it that the image of God in you is reduced to a false humility and will try to convince you that it's pride for you to be operating the way you are. They're lies and deception.

Were you called? Yes. Do you have gifts that you are to operate in? Yes. Then give it your best shot, give it everything to fulfill His call and election on your life, regardless that it might appear overconfident and gratifying because it's Jesus giving you joy to fulfill it in you. Examine your heart today to see if you're walking in false humility.

To read on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, click on this link to [The Holy Spirit Power Series](#).