

The Screwtape Letters ~ Letter 6 ~ Faith or Fear?
October 25th, 2020

Before reading the following overview of this Letter, please click on the link above to read the book and for today's Illustrated Message, please read **Letter 6**.

We'd like to start off by highlighting the [Sparknotes](#) Summary of Letter 6. "*Because of his age, the Patient is uncertain whether he will be drafted. Screwtape counsels Wormwood to keep the Patient in a state of maximum uncertainty. He should keep the Patient from thinking of his fear as a test from the Enemy and make him think only of the things he fears. Screwtape offers a general rule: encourage the Patient to focus only on objects and to keep him from being self-aware. If the Patient is praying, however, he should be kept from thinking of the Enemy and, instead, encouraged to think about himself. No matter what, Screwtape acknowledges, the Patient will be part bad and part good. War encourages people to hate unknown, invisible enemies. Wormwood, however, should direct the Patient's hatred toward his neighbors and his good intentions toward people far remote. That way, the Patient's virtues will be pushed out too, into the realm of fantasy.*"

Screwtape says of the patient; "*We want him to be in the maximum uncertainty, so that his mind will be filled with contradictory pictures of the future, every one of which arouses hope or fear. There is nothing like suspense and anxiety for barricading a human's mind against the Enemy.*"

Do you ever feel that way with the devil setting up barricades of fear, doubt and unbelief between you and God so that you can't even hear from Him as a result of it? It's like you've been blocked by satan who has caused anxiety to come between you and God? One of the greatest tactics demons use to keep Christian men and women from setting their minds on God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, is by getting them to believe lies about the uncertainty of their future that results in paralyzing them with fear, doubt and unbelief. We're talking about Christians who have been paralyzed and incapacitated by these demonic assignments.

The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy the following in **2 Timothy 1:6-7**; "*6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*"

Have you had hands laid on you like Timothy did by pastors, teachers, prophets etc., and the gift of the Holy Spirit was imparted to you? But the gift has been stymied by fear, doubt and unbelief, hence, it's not operating like it should. It seems as though Timothy was no different than any of us as he too got caught up in the present-day situations of panic, persecutions, sickness, his own physical ailments in his stomach in which Paul even exhorted him to take some wine to settle his stomach. Maybe Timothy had an ulcer due to his worry. That's why Paul is reminding him to stir up the gift of God! Paul identified that the spirit of fear was oppressing Timothy which in turn was quenching the work of the Holy Spirit in and through him.

The gifts of Holy Spirit that God has given the Christian are what the demons don't want them to stir up and operate in, together with a sound mind that is full of love and Holy Ghost power. The devil wants them to stir up fear, doubt and unbelief which quenches the operation of the gifts. This in turn leads to an unsound mind that becomes mentally ill in one way or another.

Romans 8:12-17 says; "*12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not*

receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba,[a] Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba,[a] Father.”

Keep in mind that Wormwood's job, is to barricade the communication lines with God by getting the Patient to believe lies that will lead him to get out of the spirit and into the flesh.

Screwtape says; “*It is your business to see that the patient never thinks of the present fear as his appointed cross but only of the things he is afraid of.*”

It's unrealistic to think that overcoming fear about the future is not going to be a part of the Christians life, but it is important not to be overcome by it but to come out of fear and into faith in God's word.

I like the way the Apostle Paul spoke about his cross and overcoming fear as a minister of the Gospel in **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**; “*16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*”

Keep in the forefront of your mind, that the fears that are in your life as a Christian, are not from God, and He has not given you a spirit of fear to bear as a cross, but rather, a sound mind that is full of the power of the Holy Spirit. The devil knows that if you nail those fears to the cross that your carrying, it's a continual reminder of how Jesus defeated him on the cross.

Colossians 2:15 says; “*Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*”

This is an excellent scripture to use every time the devil throws his fiery darts at you; you simply remind him that Jesus triumphed over him at the cross. That's why Screwtape would rather the Patient focus on the things he is afraid of, rather than the appointed cross where Christ made a public spectacle of him and all his demons by defeating them. The devil always wants to get people to focus on the uncertainty of the future but not on the call, the election and them picking up their cross to follow Jesus wherever He calls them to. So, he lies to Christians to get them to believe that their cross, is actually that of being fearful, doubtful and unbelieving. He's such a liar.

You've heard people say that, ‘it's my cross, I just have to bear it.’ They'll say that it's a generational illness, grandpa had bad nerves, dad had bad nerves and now I have bad nerves, it's just in the family. The devil has gotten them to believe that it's their cross that Jesus wants them to carry. So, then they'll chalk it up to not having a sound mind and that's the reason they have to see a psychiatrist every week, or to keep the medication intake up. But it's not the cross that Jesus wants you to carry! It's the cross the devil wants to put on you to rob, kill and destroy and keep you from fulfilling God's call on your life. People have to stop accrediting the works of the kingdom of darkness as being the works of God. Because on the flip side that's how people end up blaspheming the Holy Spirit, saying that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and prophesying is of the devil. Jesus said in His word that it won't go well in the end for those who make such pronouncements.

Screwtape says; “*Let him regard them as his crosses: let him forget that, since they are incompatible, they cannot all happen to him, and let him try to practise fortitude and patience to them all in advance.*”

Sounds like the song, ‘I Did It My Way’; focusing only me, myself and I and that the crosses you’re to bear are fear, doubt and unbelief because that’s what Jesus has put on your shoulders to bear. How deceiving is that! Demons have a lot of Christians bearing their fears as their crosses given to them from God, and this lie will keep them paralyzed with one fear after another and will ultimately result in them not having of a sound mind. That’s the end result; mental illness.

We’ll quote this scripture again from **2 Timothy 1:7**; “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*”. But if you’re making fear a cross, doubt a cross and unbelief a cross, what’s the result? You’re not going to have a sound mind. It will get to the point where a person will be on medications with psychiatrists and psychologists getting involved. This is NOT God’s will. He never gave you fear, doubt or unbelief, let alone to think He’d give them to you as crosses to bear!

The cross that Jesus speaks of is the life of self denial, and does not involve the works of the flesh of bearing fear, doubt an unbelief as a cross, but rather faith to follow the call of Christ and if need be, persecuted for it. Picking up your cross to follow Jesus is one of faith.

Screwtape says; “*Fear becomes easier to master when the patient's mind is diverted from the thing feared to the fear itself, considered as a present and undesirable state of his own mind; and when he regards the fear as his appointed cross, he will inevitably think of it as a state of mind.*”

You have to remember that satan is a liar and the father of lies; he’s your adversary. This appointed cross that Screwtape talks about is once again a work of the flesh, that does not involve the self denial that Jesus spoke of as a perquisite to be His disciple. What Screwtape is trying to do is convince the Patient that he is not of a sound mind, and that fear, doubt and unbelief about what the future holds, is just the normal state of mind that he’s to remain in and embrace it as his cross.

How many Christians fall into this snare and believe these lies? Added to that is the constant bombardment through the media that propagates and exacerbates these fears. The devil lies to make you believe it’s normal to be fearful about what’s happening and he’ll get you to focus on self-help books, motivational speakers, seminars, medications and doctors to suppress your feelings and make you feel better.

Let’s look at what Jesus said about not fearing what the future holds in **Matthew 6:25-34**; “*25 Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one [a]cubit to his [b]stature? 28 So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not [c]arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*”

It seems that the theme throughout this Letter is to keep the Patients mind on the present fears about the future, and keep him from seeking first the kingdom of God and all His righteousness and see God supply all his needs, spirit, soul and body.

What Screwtape and Wormwood are repeating throughout this letter is the exact opposite of what Jesus says in **Matthew 16:24**; “*24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”*”

So long as demons can keep a Christian from not denying themselves and taking up their cross and following Jesus, they know that they can replace it with a religious life that is full of fear, doubt, unbelief and works of the flesh that will lead them to not have a sound mind and ultimately discredit what Jesus did when He defeated satan by His death on the cross and His resurrection.

Matthew 13:24-30 talks about The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares; “*24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ 29 But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’*

I don't believe that the devil sows people into the church as sons of perdition but rather there are Christians in churches who have to make decisions of right and wrong in the midst of it all, and they choose wrong. Those whom the devil has lied to then become the tares. I don't believe its preordained plants in the church by the devil, but Christians who have become game and open prey for the devil, and hence become the tares. In other words, tares are people who become tares, they're people sitting in the pews in whom demonic seeds are planted. They who were once maybe walking in faith are now in fear, doubt and unbelief. I believe it's a common thought in Christianity that the devil has power to sow, for a lack of better words, a bunch of Judas', sons of perdition, in the church, but I don't believe that. I believe that the devil is sowing lies and people start believing them. He's getting them to serve him while they're in church, having a form of godliness but denying its power. (2 Timothy 3:5). They have no Holy Ghost power as they've denied it.

It says that while they were asleep, the enemy came in. I believe there are and have been many pastors asleep in the pulpits (the fields) allowing the devil has come and sow lies in the minds of the people to ultimately rob, kill and destroy their lives. The devils hope then is that they are harvested as tares of his kingdom of darkness.

Really what it comes down to, is to think that God created these people to become tares in the beginning. No. God gave mankind a free will. God is not evil at all and He does not pre-ordain people to be tares or to go to hell. He's not willing that any perish but that all come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9).

It's not that Christians are to go on ‘a tare search’ in their church, but as in this parable it was obvious to the servants seeing the tares, so it's obvious to those who are discerning that there are tares in churches today.

I believe it's important in the time that we are living in to keep in perspective that not all who call themselves Christian are born again of His Spirit, but are tares in the Church. Now is not the time to allow the devil to set

**ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON
THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS BY C.S.LEWIS.**

up barricades of fear, doubt and unbelief to block your fellowship with God, but rather walk by faith no matter what it will cost you in the end.

Walking in faith is costly, but there is no cost in walking in fear, doubt and unbelief. It may cost you a lot of unnecessary heartache and grief, but you're in the flesh and not in the Spirit. Walking by faith, in the Spirit, is costly because of the persecutions that will come and it may cost you your life.

Taking up the cross is found in **Galatians 2:20** where it says; "*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*"

The last sentence in Letter 6 Screwtape says; *"All sorts of virtues painted in the fantasy or approved by the intellect or even, in some measure, loved and admired, will not keep a man from our Father's house: indeed, they may make him more amusing when he gets there."*

Are the demons assigned to rob, kill and destroy your life able to say of you, that the religious life you led, void of the power of the Holy Spirit, is so amusing? Can that happen you ask? Yes, it can, and that's why you are to continually walk by faith. Jesus gives you life and life more abundantly but satan causes you to backslide in fear, doubt and unbelief; with Jesus you're carrying His cross with ease because all your sins have been nailed to the cross and you're crucified to the cross with Christ. With satan, it is just a burden that ultimately leads you down a road of destruction with an unsound mind, and the demons will find your religious facade very amusing when you arrive to their father's house in hell.

Here is a Carman video from the 1995 Album; R.I.O.T (Righteous Invasion of Truth) entitled, '[No Monsters](#)'