



Trait # 5- Hero Worship
Day 1

Just a note: In this week's devotions we are going to look at misplaced worship. But first, it is important to look at a few verses from our Spiritual Warfare series. As we go through this week, remember Jesus Christ defeated our enemy, Satan, on the cross. However he is a real enemy, and his main goal is deception.

Read : Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4;

Now what do these verses have to do with misplaced worship?

What do the phrases " the prince of the power of the air " and "the god of this world " tell us about our enemy?

Take note to 2 Corinthians 4:3-4: Not only has Satan already blinded the minds of unbelievers but he is attempting to blind you through a process call "desensitization" (or the slow numbing of your senses, so you can no longer tell right from wrong)

Read Mark 13:21-23;

Can you list ways and/ or tools Satan may be using to numb the minds of unbelievers?

How is Satan using our culture to numb the masses?

Tomorrow we will take a closer look into this.



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Day 2

Yesterday, I asked you to make a list of ways and/or tools Satan was using to blind the minds of the masses. Did you come up with any of these?:

1. Media (including news)
 2. Television
 3. Entertainment (music videos, magazines, movies, etc.)
- and these are just a few!

What do all these tools have in common. (What do they place emphasis on?)

Read 1 John 2:15-17;

How does our culture influence our daily lives?

The world's definition of success is power, fame, money, beauty. Now what does 1 John 2:15-17 say about this?

You see, anything we place as our focus ahead of God, becomes an idol!

Read Matthew 6:19-24

So whatever it is in our lives that takes our attention away from Jesus, it is that very thing we are worshipping! **For this reason, this is Satan's great illusion (and how he masquerades as an angel of light)**

What idol's are in your life?



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Day 3

Read Matthew 22:37,38;

What is true Worship?

Is it just singing songs on Sunday morning?

Is it going to church and reading your bible?

These things could be considered part of worship absolutely. But they are not worship in and of themselves. As we saw in the spiritless devotions, obedience to God's word is central to true worship.

"If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15); " If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word" (John 14:23a)

Read Mt. 22:37,38 again.

We have seen how Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers, and is in the process of trying to desensitize our minds (pull the shades over our eyes) through his form of "propaganda"... to keep us from realizing what our real purpose is as Christians. More tomorrow....

Read Mt. 22:37,38;



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Day 4

Read John 3:30;

So what is our true purpose as Christians?

What does this mean: "He must increase, and I must decrease?"

Read Romans 12:1,2; (this should be a familiar verse... its been in other devotions)

So is this saying worship is presenting our lives (bodies, and minds), to Jesus, to do with as He wills?

What about what our culture is telling us: to Focus on self, and self gratification? How is this a way of telling us that we are gods?

Read 1 Sam. 15:22; "To obey is better than sacrifice"... seems to be a repeating theme (anytime something is repeated often, that means it's something of significance!)

Read Psalm 51:17; What is a broken spirit?

True worship goes beyond formal disciplines.... its a matter of our inner being



Trait # 5- Hero Worship
Day 5

Another form of misplaced worship among Christians is placing the pastor on a pedestal. What I mean by this is we tend to rely on the pastor for our **own** spiritual responsibilities. We even sometimes take his word for it when he's preaching! More often than not we think he's a superhuman and shouldn't make mistakes. Remember, he's a human just like you or I.

So what am I saying? I'm saying he's (the pastor) there to guide us along the way, **hold us accountable..... and yes even correct us to our face if we are in sin (and we shouldn't get angry at him when he does this cause its scriptural!).** We should be there when he's "bleeding" just like he's there when we are, he's not above you or I. He's our brother, leading like a father does his child.

Read Matthew 23:8-12, with special note to "and you are all brothers"

Take note to how Paul speaks kind of harshly to the Corinthians. He's doing this out of love... like when our son or daughter does something that might hurt him or her and we have to raise our tone.

Now I'm going to challenge all of you. If you've done your days in order, it's Friday now. You have until Sunday to read 1 Timothy. (Yes the whole chapter). **I know you can do it! As you read it, read between the lines and see how Paul speaks to Timothy as he would his own son.**