



Christian Living: Spiritual Warfare

Memo to Demons: Spiritual Inoculation

Well, you've done it! I warned you against over-doing your client's suffering, didn't I? I warned you that too much and he may turn to the Enemy for hope. You couldn't give him some relief, as I instructed? Some distraction? Your thirst for his pain made you careless. Now you come to me, groveling, for *sympathy*! Have you forgotten? THERE IS NO SYMPATHY HERE! If I did not have to report your work to his Majestic Evilness (which I am glad to do, of course) I would leave you to your fate. But my fate is tied to yours and so I will help you, regrettably, but only to help myself.

So, in his desperation your client has picked up A BIBLE, you tell me, and started reading it. Why, I ask, did you allow a Bible to stay in his house? Did we not address that *most basic danger* in Warfare 101! Now, for Satan's sake, discredit that book. Bring back to his mind the reasons he had for ignoring it until now. You know the drill: It's a human book only, maybe inspirational but not inspired. It is full of contradictions. It can be interpreted to mean anything, which means nothing carries authority. The miracle stories make it unscientific. Its ideas are out of touch with modern thinking and, therefore, inferior, even primitive. He never did test those arguments before (they served his natural bias) so hopefully he will not do so now. Make undying efforts to separate him from that book!

This is a very dangerous time for us – I should say, you. You are close to losing him. For that reason, you must act quickly on my instructions. Next to a Bible the single greatest danger against keeping his soul is a lively Christian who speaks the Bible's "good news", otherwise known as the gospel. I presume he has not comprehended the gospel from his Bible reading yet? The gospel is the power of the Enemy for bringing His "lambs" (yes, he actually feels affection for the loathsome creatures) into his kingdom. For that reason, we consider it our greatest accomplishment to have influenced most Christians to be silent on that subject. (More on that another time). The lively ones, however, will speak the gospel. This terrifies me! They are clumsy about it for the most part, often timid, but if they get the gospel out, even clumsily, and your client believes it, you will have lost your client. Keep lively Christians away from him. And keep the muted one's mute. There **MUST NOT** be any gospel message made clear to your client.

But I must prepare you for a worst-case scenario. Believing the gospel is all the Enemy requires of them. He is disgustingly lax in his demands, having done all the work for them. You must, then, prevent the one thing He requires. It is smoke and mirrors, of course. We have observed that if they *truly* believe the gospel (and that is the key) they don't only believe. Everything else follows – servile obedience, revolting love to God and people, hatred of sin and love of righteousness. When true faith arrives something mysterious happens within them. The prophets called it a new heart. The Son called it a birth. Stunningly, He places the Spirit in them to animate them. But that has not yet happened with your client, I trust. Right now, your client's proximity to the Enemy is giving him some relief from the torment he was feeling. The idea of a loving God, of forgiveness, of Divine help, is bringing your client some comfort, even joy. He is beginning to see a way out. He thinks he believes but it may not yet have reached the fatal condition of true belief. Let him have those natural feelings that humans can have about God. Endure the impulsive reforms he begins to make in his life, if you must. If it is not true belief, his devotion will not be deep or not last.

Here is the most important point: a shot of humanly generated "faith" can inoculate your client against God-given faith. The former "faith" will make them more decent, often religious (sometimes zealously so), but it will not lead to those things I listed above that follow true faith. They stop looking for God because they assume they have Him. After all, they think, they only have to "believe". Encourage him to think that he has truly believed, despite the lack of evidence, and you will have inoculated him against the real thing. And when they eventually arrive here, their shock and dismay are truly delicious.

Your Always Disappointed Mentor.

(Written in imitation of C. S. Lewis', *The Screwtape Letters*)

