



The Kingdom Perspective

The Devil's Dialogue

Hello, this is Pastor Don Willeman of Christ Redeemer Church. Welcome to The Kingdom Perspective.

It is said that the first casualty of war is truth. Whoever manages to get the upper hand in framing the conflict has a clear advantage over the one who does not. This is as true in our disagreements around the kitchen table, as it is in our cultural debates. It's as true in the bedroom, as it is on the battlefield.

Now, the Bible tells us that we are in a *spiritual* battle, and the chief strategy of our enemy is to get the upper hand by getting us to believe lies. The devil loves to twist the truth and trick us into trusting him as opposed to God. As Jesus put it, "When [the devil] lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44 NIV). Therefore, in our fight, we are warned to be vigilant (1 Peter 4)—to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). We are told to be aware of the devil's schemes, and so, not fall prey to His strategy (2 Corinthians 2:11). But how do we do that?

Enter C.S. Lewis's masterful classic *The Screwtape Letters*. Like nothing I've ever read, it does an excellent job exposing many twisted, hellish, and insidious lies. I highly recommend it! Whether you read it or listen to it (why not do both!!!), you will find yourself awakened to the many ways our enemy trips us up. Go to our podcast to find links to free resources for this work.

I hope by seeing the way the devil tricks us, you might learn to walk in greater wisdom, and avoid many traps. But watch out! The devil doesn't want his secrets exposed. Perhaps that's why Lewis said that it was the most difficult piece he ever wrote.

Something to think about from The Kingdom Perspective.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak."

~ **Ephesians 6:10-20 (ESV)**

Free Online Resources*:

Audio Book of The Screwtape Letters read by John Cleese:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gL6lCeXF8D4>

Digital Copy of The Screwtape Letters:

<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.86985/page/n69/mode/1up>

*Originally, written during during WW2 in Britain, some material in *The Screwtape Letters* will be a bit dated, but let that not dissuade you. As a matter of fact, being written during the greatest war to ever engulf our planet, makes it even more viscerally compelling.

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