

The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis

Letter 4 Worksheet

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Vocabulary Define the following words with only 1-2 words

1. amateurish _____

2. intention _____

3. persuaded _____

4. spontaneous _____

5. vaguely _____

6. mood _____

Extra Credit Vocabulary

supplication, superficial, resemblance, affects, cynically, indifferent, self-knowledge, perception, luminosity, searing, composite, discreditable, episode, attributed, subjective, external, incalculable

Bonus Vocabulary

retained

Comprehension Questions Answer the questions briefly (full sentences are unnecessary)

1. Whom do you think is shifting responsibility in the first paragraph, Wormwood or Screwtape? Why? (Remember Lewis' admonition in the Preface: "Readers are advised to remember that the devil is a liar. Not everything that Screwtape says should be assumed to be true even from his own angle.")

2. Why would Screwtape encourage Wormwood to keep the patient from prayer?

3. Why would it be advantageous to Wormwood if the "patient", as an adult, to recall his parrot-like prayers of childhood?

4. Screwtape talks about the advantage of the “patient” emulating a *devotional mood* and proceeds to quote the poet Coleridge not praying ... “with moving lips and bended knees” but “composed his spirit to love” with “a sense of supplication.” How will this help Wormwood?

5. Explain: “Whenever they are attending to the Enemy Himself we are defeated.”

6. Screwtape discusses at length in his letter to Wormwood an effectual way of distracting the “patient” by encouraging the “patient” to produce feelings he thinks is appropriate to the situation. (e.g., substituting real courage for bravery, feeling forgiven and being forgiven). Why would Screwtape want Wormwood to have the “patient” to evaluate his prayer based on the “patient’s” given feelings at the moment? (*Hint: Repeat the Lord’s Prayer. Are answered prayers a product of God’s sovereign providential care? or our will?*)

7. Why does Screwtape abhor our Lord’s Self-revelation to humans? Why does he view this as lowering His dignity?

8. Why does Screwtape write, “I have known cases where what the patient called his “God” was actually located — up and to the left at the corner of the bedroom ceiling, or inside his own head, or in a crucifix on the wall.” Why would Screwtape want the “patient” continuing to pray to this object?

9. Why does Screwtape write that “humans themselves do not desire it [totally conscious understanding of what God says He is in the Bible] as much as they suppose. There’s such a thing as getting more than they bargained for!”
