

1. Idleman, Kyle *gods at War: Defeating the Idols that Battle for your Heart*, Zondervan, 2013

THE FOLLOW UP

AMERICAN IDOLS — PART 2

You have 6 days to get these 4 devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done



Above all else, guard your heart for it is the source of your life. ~ Proverbs 4:23

As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the real person. ~ Proverbs 27:19

DEVO #1—All in for Our Idols

READ: 1 Kings 18:20-40

What a sight it must have been. All those prophets cutting and slashing themselves, desperate to get the attention of their god. As you read, you were probably shaking your head at such ridiculous behavior—people worshipping a false god with greater and greater effort, thinking that giving more and more will get their god to respond. It all seems so stupid. But wait, doesn't this still happen today...with us?

We sacrifice our money for stuff to make us happy and end up spending more and more trying to stay happy. We give our heart and soul to it, never truly feeling satisfied because these false gods can't really give a response. Only the real God can respond with fulfillment.

1. To what idols do you turn to make yourself feel happy and fulfilled?
2. How is that like the prophets of Baal in our Scripture?
3. Why is God the only one that can truly satisfy?
4. Many people want to have their idols and God too. Why doesn't this work?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for being able to truly satisfy and fulfill you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, seeking after idols of pleasure and happiness, instead of finding those things in God
- ~Ask God to remove all idols from your heart

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Spend time with the closing activity. Really think about the questions and pray through them
- ◆ Examine your heart and life for idols. Is your heart fully yielded to God?
- ◆ Keep praying at least ten minutes each day
- ◆ Ask God to show you what in your life is trying to take Him (or already has taken Him) out of first place in your heart

QUIET TIME CHALLENGE

NOTE:

The *Quiet Time Challenge* is NOT a devotional in itself. It is designed for you to do separately apart from your daily devotional time.

HOW IT WORKS:

Find a quiet place with no distractions. Make this between just you and God. Clear your mind then read the Bible verse(s). After doing so, work through the questions. At the end, spend five to ten minutes in "listening mode." Just ask God to speak to you and then be quiet and seek to hear His voice.

PART 1 — READ: Joshua 24:14,15

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain these verses in your own words:

What have you been choosing? What are you dedicated to choosing (and living for) now?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to show you if there is anything in your life that is trying to take Him out of first place. Then seek to hear God's voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — A Gift or a god

READ: Isaiah 44:6-20

God loves to give good gifts to His children. Unfortunately, the children (us) have a way of turning the gifts into gods (idols). This usually causes BIG problems.

Kyle Idleman writes, "As a gift it brings connection, as a god it causes loneliness. As a gift it brings pleasure, as a god it leads to emptiness. As a gift it brings satisfaction, but as a god it demands slavery."¹ Yes, when we take God's gifts, they can draw us closer to Him and help us feel His presence and pleasure better than ever. But when we make the gift our main focus, it separates us from God and causes us to miss out on fullness and satisfaction.

In our Bible verses, wood is a great gift from God that, when lit, can keep us warm on cold nights. As a god, however, it does nothing but rot and separate us from the Creator.

1. In verses 16-19, what does Isaiah say about the foolishness of idols?

2. What question does Isaiah end with in verse 20?

3. When you look at the things you go to for pleasure and happiness, have you asked yourself that same question about them? Do you understand these things can never truly give you what you really need?

PRAYER

~Thank God for being more than enough for you

~Confess to God, if necessary, chasing after idols

~Ask God to always remind you that He is all that you need

DEVO #3 — Idol Addiction

READ: Psalm 16

In India, many Hindus set up their living rooms with their furniture facing the mantle that holds their gods. How are our living rooms set up in America? All the furniture faces the TV.

Charles Prebish, a professor of Religion at Penn State U, states that America's newest and fastest growing religion is sports with "temples" that seat far more than any church.

Further, recent research among eight to eighteen year-olds found that 10% were classified as clinically addicted to video games and displayed all the characteristics of a heroin addict when forced to withdrawal.

Who says we don't chase after idols in America?

1. What does the writer recognize comes from God in verse 2?
2. What does he say about people who chase after false gods in verse 4?
3. What does God give according to verse 11?
4. Why must we not chase after idols and false gods?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for all the great things He has waiting for you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, seeking after temporary, worldly things instead of His eternal things
- ~Ask God to guide you to seek the right things

DEVO #4 — The Cotton Candy Diet

READ: Ecclesiastes 2:1-17

Cotton candy. You can find it at just about any fair, carnival, or stadium sporting event. Did you know that it is made from just two ingredients—sugar and air? Sugar is heated until it melts, then it is forced by high pressure and heat into a spinning bin where it attaches to air molecules. Finally, it is collected on a stick. It looks great and tastes good, but it has NO nutritional value. Moreover, since it is made up of mostly air, even if you eat a bunch of it you will still feel hungry. And, since sugar increases thirst, not only won't cotton candy curb your hunger, it will also make you thirsty!

Cotton candy is kind of like chasing after idols. Idols look good and seem to promise much. But when you get them, you find you are worse off than you were before.

1. Where did Solomon search for happiness and fulfillment?
2. What was his conclusion in verse 17 after searching for happiness and fulfillment apart from God?
3. How is searching for fulfillment apart from God like eating cotton candy?
4. Have you been guilty of this? If so, what must you do about it?

PRAYER

- ~ Thank God for all that He has done for you
- ~ Confess to God, if necessary, seeking fulfillment in the world
- ~Ask God to guide you deeper into a relationship with Him