

Satan's Hidden Influence Lesson #5 :
Satan's Influence with Images
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In this lesson we are going to look at how Satan still uses images to influence and deceive people today. When we think of images we often think of pictures or advertisements, television shows, movies, or other things that happen to come across the screen of our computers. Now in the Bible images were graven or manmade idols. Now very few people in America would consider themselves a worshiper of idols, but for many they spend hours every day in front of a screen of some kind whether it is a television or computer screen being influenced by images that they see.

Have you ever noticed that the television is always in a prominent place in the house and in the day and age that we live in it is usually one of the most expensive items of furniture in the house? We even have shows entitled "American Idol". Whether you have a TV in your home or not is not the issue the issue in this lesson is how you use it. Anything can be an idol if it steals your heart away from God and serving him whether it is a TV, Car, Recreational activity etc. What we are trying to get you to see in this lesson is how Satan uses images to influence your thoughts which in turn cause your actions.

Our Imagination and our Heart is directly affected by what we see :

Below is a chain reference that gives some verse dealing with how our heart and imagination is affected by what we see.

Genesis 3:6 (Here we see that Eve first saw that the tree was good for food)

- How many times have our eyes got us in to trouble with food? Usually one of the first steps in sin is to see the temptation.

Genesis 6:5 (Here we see the reason for God sending the flood)

- Note that as a result of sin that the imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was on evil continually.

Genesis 8:21 (Here we see that God says that the imaginations of man's heart is evil from his youth)

- If you think about it our heart is full of wicked imaginations and no one had to teach us to have them , it comes natural as a result of sin.

Mark 7:20-23 (Here we see that it is what comes out of man's heart that defiles him)

- The first things listed in these verses as coming out of the heart is evil thoughts. Then we see adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

Both David (**2 Samuel 11:2**) and Samson (**Judges 14:1**) are good examples of how their eyes affected their heart in regards to wanting women.

Now Satan knows that we have this weakness and he exploits it by constantly setting up images before our eyes that we affect our heart and then affect our imagination in the form of evil thoughts and then we will do wickedness in the sight of God.

What Satan has succeeded with television and movies and images that we see every day is that he has deceived Americans into thinking that what God calls sin, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, murder, cheating, stealing etc., is not wrong as long as everyone involved is a consenting adult and no one gets hurt. Now how did Satan do this, by showing things over and over and over again on TV and movie screens until we simply think it is OK because everyone is doing it. You can't even find a family show on TV today that does not have sexual content or language in some form or fashion and we wonder why our teens are behaving like they are.

What does the Bible say about Images :

We have been giving references and illustrations as to how our imaginations are affected by images. Have you ever noticed that the root word of imagination is "Image"? God gave some clear verses concerning images.

Exodus 20:4 (The 2nd commandment is to make no graven images)

Deuteronomy 5:8 (No images from the heavens, earth or the water)

Romans 1:21-23 (Here someone changes the glory of God into images of earthly things)

You may not have images or statues that you worship but what kind of influence are the images that you see everyday having on your life.

Satan's Deceiving Power :

Many people have no clue when it comes to Satan's real power. In Revelations 13:14-15 we see that the anti-christ gives life to an image and causes it to speak and make people worship the anti-christ. In the tribulation a real statue comes to life and sad thing is that many are probably not even surprised because they have been programmed through television and movies to believe that these things are possible.

Many of the movies and television shows especially those about robots and aliens are influenced by Satan so that when the Satan and his angels that are kicked out of the 2nd heaven and come to earth during the tribulation no one will think anything about it, because they have been watching happen on TV since the 50's.

Remember that Satan is very subtle and his methods are just as subtle but his motive has been since the very beginning to get people to worship him and he doesn't care what form it is in as people worship anything but God.

How can we get Victory over Images :

The first step is to do your best to control what you see (**Job 31:1** and **Psalms 101:3**). If this means no watching TV or going to the movies then so be it. Remember what you have a problem

with might not affect your friends the same way but if you know it is a weakness for you then keep it out of sight.

The second thing is to realize that this is Spiritual warfare and you cannot fight it on your own strength (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**). You must rely on the Lord through prayer and the word of God to stay strong and be spiritually aware of Satan's influence and avoid it at every turn.

The last thing is to remember to plead the blood of Jesus Christ. When evil thoughts or imaginations pop up ask God to cleanse your heart and mind with the blood of Christ and don't dwell on them. If you have, ask God to forgive you and move on.

