

## THE FOLLOW UP

### **AMERICAN IDOLS — PART 5**

*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— King of the Hill

### READ: Mark 10:17-34

Do you know the game "King of the Hill"? It's where you and your friends find a hill and then one person starts at the top of the hill as "The King (or Queen) of the hill." The rest try to knock the King (or Queen) down to the bottom of the hill and become the new ruler. Then, it starts all over again, as everyone works to "depose" the new monarch of the hill.

There are two problems with this game. First, when you win, you are standing alone. You may be at the top, but who is with you? No one. Second, even though you are at the top, someone is always working to throw you down. That may be fun for a game, but not for life. When you make life about success, it can be lonely and not very satisfying.

1. What did the successful young man want in our Bible verses for today? What did Jesus finally tell him was necessary?
  
2. Seems like the successful young man did NOT want to give up being 'King of the Hill.' And he chose worldly success over Jesus. Why was that a very bad choice?
  
3. Real success is doing God's will no matter what. What did Jesus say He needed to do in order to do God's will in v. 33,34?
  
4. Are you willing to do God's will no matter what?

### PRAYER

- ~Thank God for always being there for you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, seeking worldly success over Him
- ~Ask God to focus you on Him above all else

## ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

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## POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Ask God to show you if success/achievement is pushing Him out of first place in your life
- ◆ Have a conversation with your parents about what you can do as a family to stay centered on 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: Romans 11:36

### PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

How are you doing at living as though everything (including you) was created by God and intended for His glory?

### PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to show you if success, achievement, and/or gain have become idols in your life. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

## DEVO #2 — Achieving the Right Things

### READ: Philippians 3:1-14

Life in our culture conditions us to achieve. We go to school as kids and work to get stars on our papers and behavior charts. We join the cub scouts or brownies and strive to earn merit badges and move up the ranks. We get into middle school/high school and get certificates for attendance and for the honor roll. We play sports and earn a letterman's jacket, ribbons, trophies, etc.

All of which are NOT bad. After all, it feels good to achieve and be praised for it. However, these kinds of achievements can get us to think that life is about worldly rewards and rankings. In our quest to keep achieving, we find God being pushed to the sidelines, and then all the things that God wants us to accomplish for His kingdom get lost in the ribbons and badges.

1. In Paul's culture, what did he say was considered "achieving" in verses 4-6? And how was he doing at these things?
2. In verses 7-10, what did Paul realize after meeting Christ?
3. What do you work hard to achieve? (Sports, academics, high scores in video games, music, etc.)
4. Is seeking those achievements taking time away from what God wants to do through you? If so, what must you do?

### PRAYER

~Thank God for all the great things He has planned for you  
~Confess to God, if necessary, being distracted from His will  
~Ask God to focus you on Him and His goals for your life

## DEVO #3 — Mine, Mine, Mine

**READ: 1 Timothy 6:6-14; Psalm 24:1-6; Ecclesiastes 5:15**

A two year-old has a pretty limited vocabulary, but you can be sure that he knows one word: "Mine." Put a bunch of two year-olds in a room full of toys, and it will sound like those birds from *Finding Nemo*—mine, mine, mine...

One two year-old playing with a toy looks like a cute little angel. You can watch as she gently combs a doll's hair and sings "Twinka, twinka, witta stah." But put another two year-old in there, trying to take that doll, and soon you have the fury of a UFC cage match!

Unfortunately, many people never outgrow this idea of "mine." Instead of understanding how everything comes from God and exists for His glory, they continue to believe that life is about them and how much they can accumulate.

1. What does Psalm 24:1 say? How about Ecclesiastes 5:15?
2. How do those two verses show that the people Paul is talking about in 1 Timothy 6:9,10 have everything all wrong?
3. It is easy to say, "Yeah, I know everything was made by God and exists for Him." Living that out, however, is not so easy. How are you doing at living it out?
4. Where do you need to improve?

### PRAYER

~Thank God for His creation  
~Confess to God, if necessary, not living like everything is His  
~Ask God to remind you that you can't take anything with you

## DEVO #4 — Distracted???

**READ: Luke 10:38-42; Romans 8:18-30**

Many people like to see things get done. At the beginning of each week, they make a to-do list and then work all week to make sure they can check everything off the list. The good thing about these kind of lists is that you can actually see progress. You can tell that you did your chores, the homework got done, the instrument was practiced, etc.

However, when it comes to spending time with Jesus, it's not so easy to see progress being made. Praying, worshipping, reading the Bible...all of them ARE helping, it's just not so easy to see. Because of that, we can be distracted from those incredibly important things and focus on things where we can see progress being made more quickly.

1. Martha had Jesus right there with her, but what was she focused on?
2. Martha could see things being checked off her list. Mary could not see what time with Jesus was doing for her, but who did Jesus say made the right choice?
3. How distracted do you get from spending time reading the Bible, praying, doing the devos, worshipping, etc?

### PRAYER

~Thank God for all the great things He is doing in you  
~Confess to God, if necessary, focusing on temporary things and missing the eternal things God wants to do in you  
~Ask God to guide you deeper into a relationship with Him