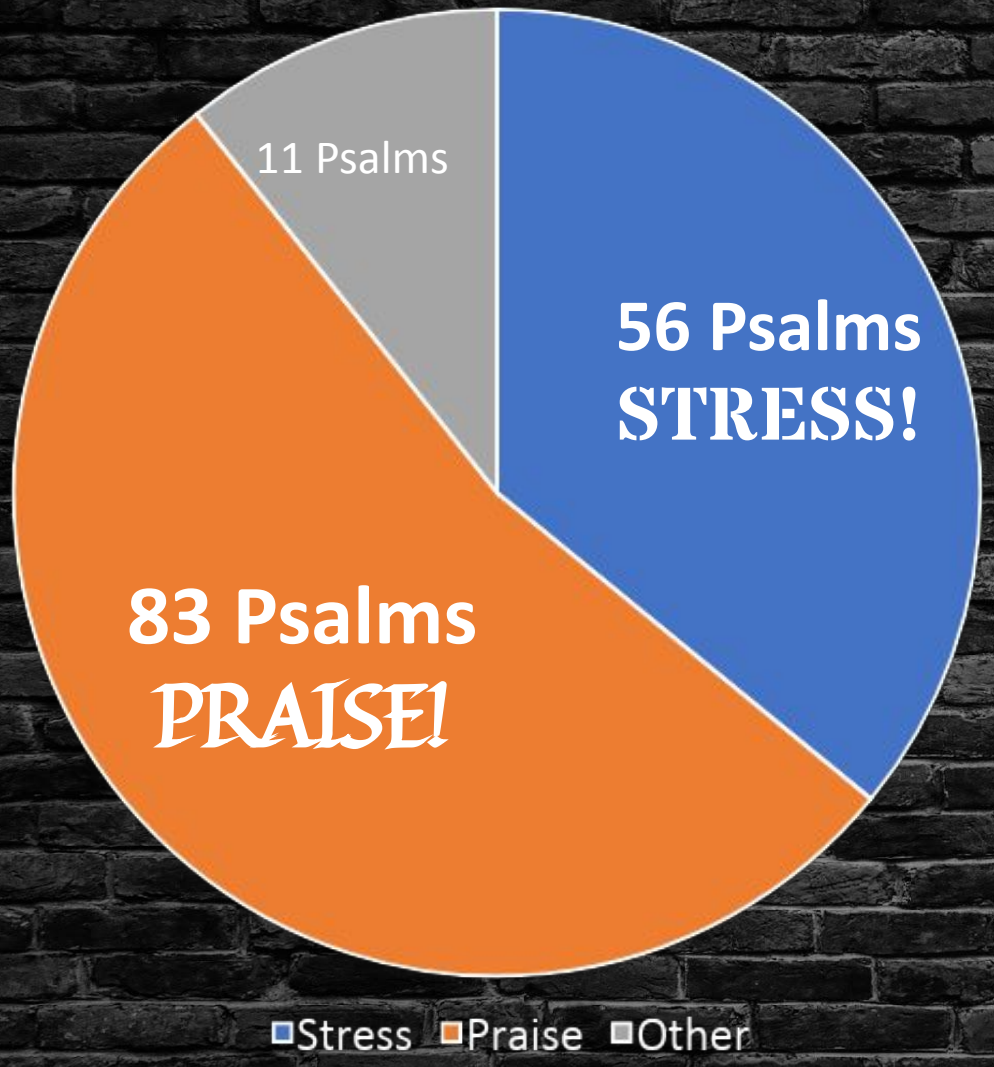
Idols of the Heart

“It’s an inside job”

TONE CONVEYED IN VERSE 1 OF ALL PSALMS



- Save us!
- Forsaken
- Tears have been my food
- Feeling “trampled”
- Deliver me
- Cry day and night
- Consider my groaning
- Trouble
- Give heed to my cry
- Answer me
- Hear my voice
- Help!
- How long O Lord?!
- I’m afflicted and needy
- Slander
- Conspiracy
- Rejection
- Affliction
- O Lord don’t be deaf to me
- Faint of heart
- Distress

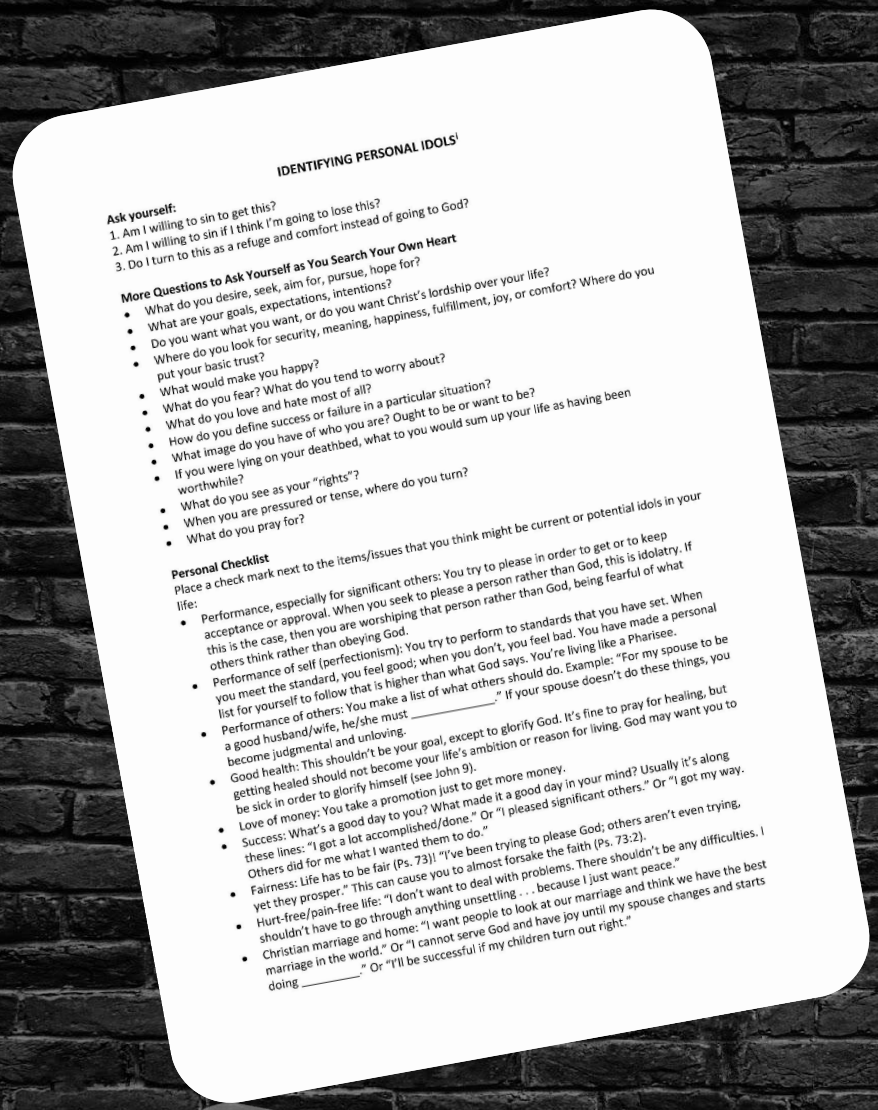
Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. (13) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. (14) Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

1Co 10:12-14

To move toward idols is to move away from the gospel and the Savior that the gospel proclaims, so the problem is not peripheral—it is central. Anything that prevents the gospel from having center stage in your life will dramatically affect the way you live and hinder the degree to which you can glorify God. And when the gospel loses center stage, your spiritual immune system shuts down, leaving you susceptible to a myriad of spiritual illnesses.

Bigney, Brad. Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols (pp. 17-18). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Identifying Personal Idols Worksheet



IDENTIFYING PERSONAL IDOLS[1]

Ask yourself:
1. Am I willing to sin to get this?
2. Am I willing to sin if I think I'm going to lose this?
3. Do I turn to this as a refuge and comfort instead of going to God?

More Questions to Ask Yourself as You Search Your Own Heart
- What do you desire, seek, aim for, pursue, hope for?
- What are your goals, expectations, intentions?
- Do you want what you want, or do you want Christ's lordship over your life?
- Where do you look for security, meaning, happiness, fulfillment, joy, or comfort? Where do you put your basic trust?
- What would make you happy?
- What do you fear? What do you tend to worry about?
- What do you love and hate most of all?
- How do you define success or failure in a particular situation?
- What image do you have of who you are? Ought to be or want to be?
- If you were lying on your deathbed, what to you would sum up your life as having been worthwhile?
- What do you see as your "rights"?
- When you are pressured or tense, where do you turn?
- What do you pray for?

Personal Checklist
Place a check mark next to the items/issues that you think might be current or potential idols in your life:
- Performance, especially for significant others: You try to please in order to get or to keep acceptance or approval. When you seek to please a person rather than God, this is idolatry. If this is the case, then you are worshiping that person rather than God, being fearful of what others think rather than obeying God.
- Performance of self (perfectionism): You try to perform to standards that you have set. When you meet the standard, you feel good; when you don't, you feel bad. You have made a personal list for yourself to follow that is higher than what God says. You're living like a Pharisee.
- Performance of others: You make a list of what others should do. Example: "For my spouse to be a good husband/wife, he/she must _____." If your spouse doesn't do these things, you become judgmental and unloving.
- Good health: This shouldn't be your goal, except to glorify God. It's fine to pray for healing, but getting healed should not become your life's ambition or reason for living. God may want you to be sick in order to glorify himself (see John 9).
- Love of money: You take a promotion just to get more money.
- Success: What's a good day to you? What made it a good day in your mind? Usually it's along these lines: "I got a lot accomplished/done." Or "I pleased significant others." Or "I got my way. Others did for me what I wanted them to do."
- Fairness: Life has to be fair (Ps. 73)! "I've been trying to please God; others aren't even trying, yet they prosper." This can cause you to almost forsake the faith (Ps. 73:2).
- Hurt-free/pain-free life: "I don't want to deal with problems. There shouldn't be any difficulties. I shouldn't have to go through anything unsettling . . . because I just want peace."
- Christian marriage and home: "I want people to look at our marriage and think we have the best marriage in the world." Or "I cannot serve God and have joy until my spouse changes and starts doing _____." Or "I'll be successful if my children turn out right."

Posted after the sermon on HBC's website

Three questions to ask yourself:

1. Am I willing to sin to get this?
2. Am I willing to sin if I think I'm going to lose this?
3. Do I turn to this as a refuge and comfort instead of going to God?

Bigney, Brad. Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols

Three heart searching considerations :

1. **What do I fear?**
2. **How do I define success or failure in a particular situation?**
3. **What are the things I pray for?**

Bigney, Brad. Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols

Personal Checklist (examples):

1. Hurt-free/pain-free life
2. Children
3. Control

Bigney, Brad. Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

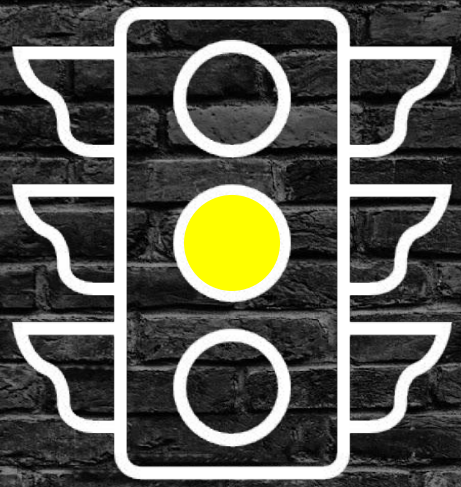
Col 3:5



\ ˈgrēd \ a selfish and excessive desire for more than is needed



DESIRE



DEMAND



NEED

Progression of Need / Demand / Need adapted from “Instruments in the Redeemer’s hands” Paul Tripp.



Psa 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; (24) And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Heb_4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

God has given us his Word to serve as smelling salts, to rouse us from the idolatrous coma we live in so much of the time.

Bigney, Brad. Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols (p. 21). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.


AC CURRENT
VACUUM
AC EVAPORATION
POWER



“The Expulsive Power of a New Affection” Scottish minister Thomas Chalmers said no one ever changed a habit just by trying. You can't fight sin, like anger or bitterness, just by girding up your loins and saying, “I don't want to feel that way.” Trying harder won't be enough to root out those feelings. Chalmers Writes: "The heart is so constituted that the only way to dispossess it of an old affection is by the expulsive power of a new one...

Dave Furman, “Being There, How to love those who are hurting”