

Letter 10 of the Screwtape Letters

1. On page 49, the patient has made “some very desirable acquaintances,” a middle-aged married couple. List the words or phrases used to describe this couple. Have you known people “similar” to this couple?
2. Screwtape calls this new friendship between the patient and the married couple “excellent” and “really promising.” Why would the demons be so encouraged by this development?

Did your parents or grandparents have any proverbial sayings related to this scenario?

3. Near the bottom of page 49, Screwtape writes, “That is the kind of betrayal you should specially encourage...” What betrayal is he referring to?
4. The danger to the patient is that “his own faith is opposite to all the assumptions on which all the conversations of his new friends is based.” Although he must very soon realize this fact, how would the demons prolong the patient’s danger and harm?

Note the phrase, “He will be silent when he ought to speak and laugh when he ought to be silent.” Why is this so dangerous?

5. On page 51, Screwtape writes, “Sooner or later, however, the real nature of his new friends must become clear to him.” When that happens, Screwtape offers three possible responses to prevent the patient from correcting his error. What are the three tactics offered?
6. The final paragraph is a masterpiece of insight into the ordinary downfall of a man. Read it carefully.