



1ST CORINTHIANS

WILD

Saints GONE

1 Corinthians 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.



What happened?



There is an overall
trajectory to life in Christ



Things that get in the way:

Idols

Testing



1 Corinthians 10:1-7

“Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were.”



Do not be idolaters





Jeremiah 2:27
“They say to wood,
‘You are my father,’
and to stone,
‘You gave me birth!’”

• *Is wood good?*

• *Are stones good?*

• *What is happening here?*



Idols are not always sins

What happens is that we take something good, something created, and we look to it for more than it can give.



You make me – you define me –
you are my father –
“Who am I without you?”
“I’m lost without you”



“We think that idols are bad things, but that is almost never the case. The greater the good, the more likely we are to expect that it can satisfy our deepest needs and hopes. Anything can serve as a counterfeit god, especially the very best things in our life.”

Tim Keller



If God is not at the center of your life, something
is:

Love – romance – beauty

Work – career – job – achievement

Money – possessions – comfort

Sports – professional or amateur

Music

Focus on the Family

P.E.T.A

International Justice Mission

Worth

Value

You make me
who I am



A husband & wife and how they handle money

- Security and control over environment
- Approval and appreciation



- Approval and appreciation



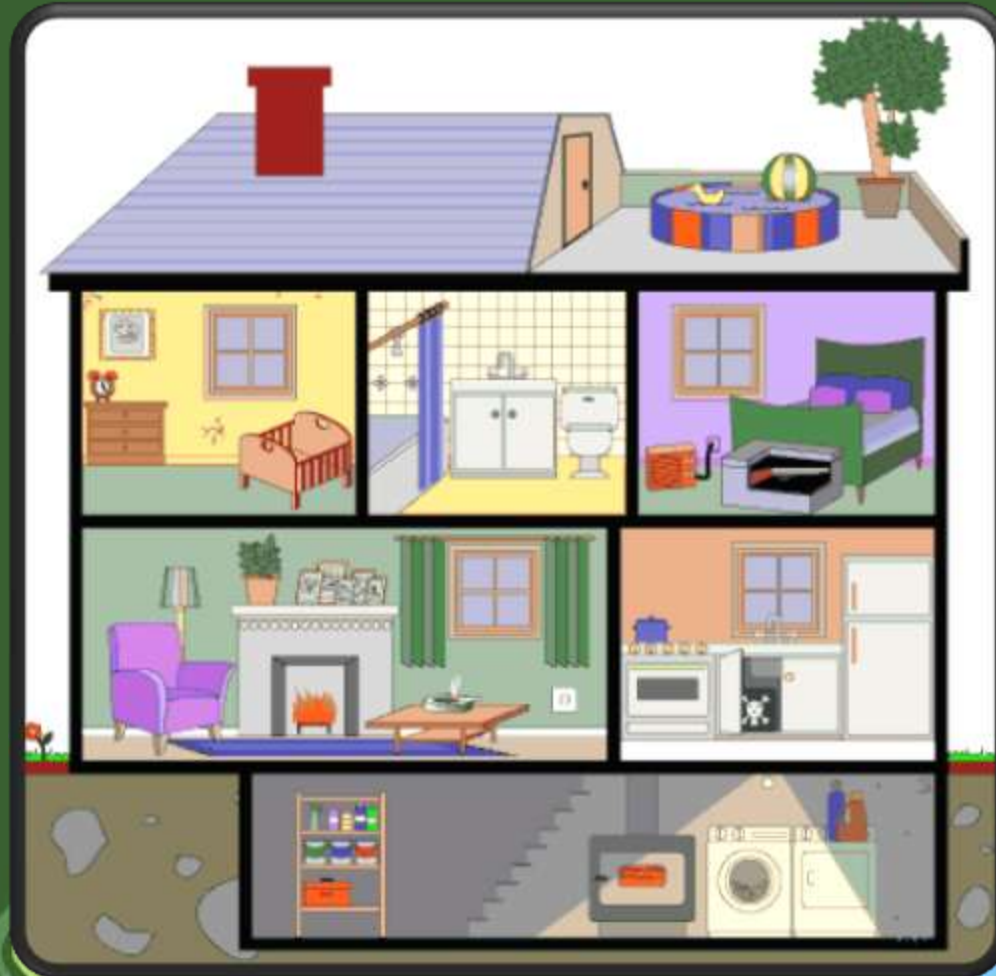
**Hard to give away money but it is easy
to buy cloths.**

**I find my acceptability
and value in how I
look and how people
perceive me more
than looking to the
affirmation of God**



**Hard to give away money but it is easy
to put it in a beautiful new house.**

**I find my significance
in where and how I
live than looking to
God for my
significance**



Hard to give away money but it is easy to put it in investments and savings.

“in this crazy and ever changing world I am secure and safe because of my savings.”



**Hard to give away money but it is easy
to spend it on my children.**

**“God, I say I worship
you, but I really
worship my family?”**



**Hard to give away money but it is easy
to spend it on sports.**

**I find my identity and
comfort in sports
more than the living
God.**



Over confidence

1 Corinthians 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks
he stands take heed that he
does not fall.



DENIAL

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NRSV)

No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.



Testing reveals our idols.



Testing reveals our idols

Many times we don't know what we worship until we are shaken. Then we find that the things we trusted in aren't working.

1 Corinthians 5:5

You are to hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

Redemptive not punitive



Testing reveals our idols

Romans 1:25-26 (ESV)

Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions.



Testing can move us in a Godward
direction.

An IDOL“...is anything so central and essential
to your life that, should you lose it, your life
would feel hardly worth living...”



Testing can move us in a Godward direction.

“Jesus is the only one who, if you receive him, will fulfill you completely, and, if you fail him, will forgive you eternally.”



**Tested to be a
blessing.**



Tested to be a blessing.

2 Corinthians 1:4 - 7

...who comforts us in all our affliction,
so that we may be able to comfort
those who are in any affliction, with the
comfort with which we ourselves are
comforted by God.



Tested to be a blessing.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (ESV)

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

Tested to be a blessing.

When I hear stories of marriages that
have been through hell and stayed in
the game...

When I see people suffer and hold on to
the their faith in the face of
perplexities...

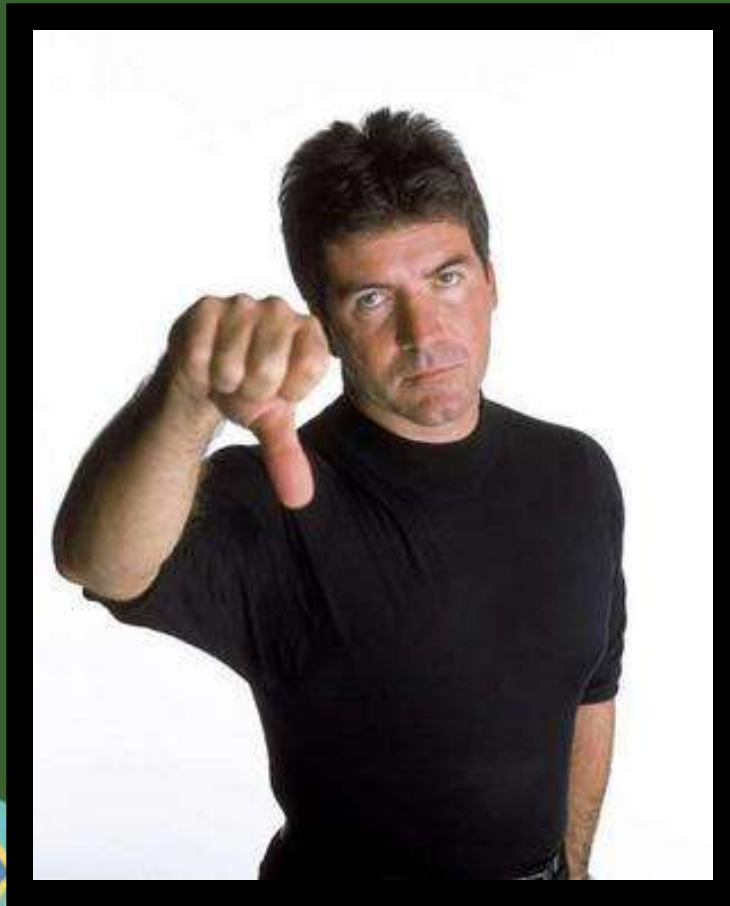


Tested to be a blessing.

When my friend who has struggled with
addictions find grace to fight it...



Idols aren't torn down they are replaced.



Larry's story

