

Has This Ever Happened to You?

by Author Unknown

You went through an entire song service without even thinking about what you were singing?

You bowed your head and closed your eyes during the prayer, but you really didn't become involved in the prayer?

You were more interested in when the preacher would finish the sermon than in what he was saying during the sermon?

You allowed some minor noise near you to completely upset you so that you could not really worship?

These and many other things often happen, don't they? Here are some ways to avoid them:

1. Don't come to services expecting to be entertained - this is not the purpose for our assemblies.
2. Be a participant rather than just a spectator.
3. Prepare yourself mentally when coming to worship.

4. Resolve that you are going to worship no matter what others do. There are many distractions, but we accept them. We do not condone noise in worship, but let us be determined that it will not keep us from worshipping.

5. Examine your motives for worshipping – and do so often. Doing things by habit can become a problem if we're not careful.

6. Don't think that services have to be conducted in new, innovative, or highly emotional ways to be meaningful.

7. Bring your Bible and follow references during the lesson

8. Take notes during the sermon. The time will pass faster and you will retain more of the lesson.

9. Make a list of words in the songs which are unfamiliar to you and find their definition later.



Classes This Week

Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Billy Hunt (Cherri's brother)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's grandfather)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Kimzey Simpson	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Tory Colvin (sister of Case O'Dell)	Maria Williams	Barbara Chandler	Donna Jackson (Kristen's aunt)
Betty Bradford	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Earl Mitchell (Debbi Coleman's dad)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	EB & Ara Belle Rich (Joanetta's aunt)	Bobby Jennings (Brooke's uncle)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Helen Andrews (Susan's sister)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Mavis Hale (Chris Long's grandmother)

April Birthdays

- 4-Julie Henriquez
- 5-Tate Pender
- 5-Oseas Chavez
- 6-Elsie Crawford
- 7-Bethany Haley
- 8-Laura Humphrey
- 8-Hannah Morris
- 9-Brooke Perkins
- 11-Kristen Diehl
- 12-Becky Daniels
- 13-Ashlyn Crawford
- 14-Jesse Roberts
- 16-Carla Luther
- 16-Carson Fowler
- 17-Amanda Wood
- 18-Spencer Sullivanne
- 18-Taylor Godwin
- 20-April Jerkins
- 20-Hannahlee Weaver
- 21-Timothy Jones
- 21-Connor Campbell
- 22-Katelyn Waddell
- 23-Anna Miller
- 23-Catherine Butler
- 24-Kathleen Parker
- 24-Bob Simpson
- 25-Jacob Chavez
- 29-Andrea Ogles
- 29-Ariah Strickland

News and Notes

- ☒ - We welcome our newest members Amanda Bishop and Jay Belmont!
- ☒ - Please pray for Joy Powell and her family in the loss of her son, Garrison Powell, (Carla Luther's brother) on Monday night.
- ☒ - Our new quarter starts today!
- ☒ - Thanks for all who came for work day!
- ☒ - Our new quarter starts next Sunday!
- ☒ - Ryan's mother will begin chemo this week.
- ☒ - Caleb Daniels had successful surgery to repair a major tear in his shoulder.
- ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Kristen Diehl and Nakia Strickland .
- ☒ - Abbie Harrison was not able to have the stem cell procedure and will likely have another knee surgery in early May.
- ☒ - Please see Patsy Ogle to contribute to the flower fund which has been depleted.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Maria Williams who is still suffering with pain but was able to go home from the hospital.
- ☒ - Ashley Miller's grandfather, Max Carter, had emergency surgery on Wed after a fall and has still not awakened. He is 91. Please pray for his recovery!

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Destructive Complexes

By Don Martin



Thoughts to Ponder

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts. (Proverbs 21:2)

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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Evangelist and Editor

We shall be using the term "complex" rather loosely in this article. A simple definition of complex is, "The term for a psychological cause, hidden or repressed, having a strong influence on one's character; an obsession (Webster's National Dictionary). In our examination of some destructive complexes we shall not use the term altogether in keeping with psychiatry. As Christians, we should enjoy mental hygiene. Physically, people who experience complexes are mentally abnormal and, consequently, suffer mental imbalance. Many of these mental complexes virtually destroy people mentally and physically. This is also true spiritually. The complexes we shall consider can render the child of God fruitless, useless, and miserable.

Introvert Complex

Introversion is "a concentration on one's inner life, to the exclusion of other interests." Beloved, we cannot have a preoccupation with self and fulfill our obligations to God and our fellow-man. Christians are to "bear the infirmities of the weak," "consider one another to

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provoke unto love and good works," and "support the weak" (Rom. 15:1-3; Heb. 10:24; 1 Thess. 5:14). How can we perform the activities enjoined in these passages if we do not associate with others and allow them to associate with us?

Local churches on occasion experience problems because some are suffering from an "introvert complex." For example, many who holler clique are blinded by this concentration on self - they do not allow or desire other members to associate with them and they resent other members associating one

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with another. God's people are to be gregarious. We are to mix and mingle that we might influence one another for good (cf. **Acts 2:47; Rom. 15:14; Acts 8:4; Heb. 10:24, 25**).

Persecution Complex

Individuals who possess a "persecution complex" believe nobody likes or appreciates them. They think everybody is out to get them. Every word spoken, every plan contemplated is directed to their hurt, they believe. Because they think in this manner they frequently misjudge the deeds and motives of others (**John 7:24**). Many, when asked about their failing to attend the local church of which they are a member reply, "The members of that church could care less about me." Or, "They had rather I didn't attend; they resent my presence."

Not infrequently, members who are characterized by this type of thinking are not only destroying themselves spiritually but are also a threat to the unity of God's people. The paranoid member who does attend feeling everyone is out to get them, often seeks to destroy others. In many cases, you will find a "persecution complex" behind the gossip, lying, and malevolent deeds.

Inferiority Complex

I have personally known capable individuals who wasted their ability and potential because they felt they could not perform the task at hand. They were constantly belittling and castigating themselves. They actually believed that they had no worth and value. The person who suffers from what we call an inferiority complex believes he does not know enough to teach others, he is not good enough to associate with other Christians or he cannot encourage the weak because he feels he is weaker.

This type of thinking involves and results in fear which can cause one to lose one's soul. The one talent man said, "I was afraid, and

went and hid thy talent in the earth . . ." (**Mt. 25:25**, all emphasis throughout mine, DM). John wrote, "but the fearful . . . shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone . . ." (**Rev. 21:8**). Beloved, you are not "inferior" to any; you too were created in the image of God (**Gen. 1:26**)!

Narcissus Complex

In Greek mythology, Narcissus was a youth who one day saw his reflection in a pool of water. Upon seeing his reflection he fell in love with it and suffered because it was unattainable. Hence, a Narcissus complex is excessive self love.

Paul in writing of the last days stated, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves . . ." (**2 Tim. 3:2**). Presently, many aliens are not leaving the world because of self-love; they will not deny self (**Lk. 9:23**). Confessedly, some members of Christ's body are so in love with themselves that they are puffed up and living simply to satisfy their own desires (**1 Cor. 10:31-33**).

Anxiety Complex

Doctors are informing us that anxiety contributes to, everything from tooth decay to cardiovascular disorders. Worry drains us and can kill us physically and spiritually. Yet, we go on worrying over every little thing. Some worry so much that they have developed an "anxiety complex." Notwithstanding, Jesus taught, "Take therefore no thought (do not worry) for the morrow . . ." (**Mt. 6:34**). Paul exhorted, "In nothing be anxious: but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (**Phil. 4:6, ASV**).

Conclusion

Concerned reader, we must watch and be aware of our thinking and mental status because, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he," (**Prov. 23:7**). Many fail to become Christians and some who are Christians are fruitless and unproductive because of the destructive complexes herein set forth.

Truth Magazine - March 29, 1979



In the Presence of My Enemies

By Terry W. Benton

What did David mean when he said "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies"? The man "after God's own heart" had enemies "without a cause" (**Ps 35:19**). Jesus, the perfect man, and the personification of perfect love, had enemies. That also made them enemies of the Father of creation (**Jn 15:24**)! If we live in this world for God we will have enemies. Not that any of us want enemies, and not that we want to make ourselves enemies to people, but it seems that we just cannot prevent it and at the same time love and serve God.

So, knowing that we will have to contend with and deal with people who have made themselves our enemies, what are we to do? Paul said that "as much as depends on you, live at peace with all men" (**Rom 12:18**). While we diligently seek this that "peace" also depends on the one who hates us and has made up their mind to be an enemy. We cannot control a person's feelings of hatred and ill-will toward us when they have turned away from true justice and mercy. We can only control our own.

What then can we do under such circumstances? Jesus commands us to "love your enemies" (**Mt. 5:44f**). He is not commanding us to love their attitudes and behavior toward us. What He is commanding is that we love them, and that means to have "good will" for them. We sincerely will want good things for them despite what they want to happen to us. Jesus gives us this example from the cross as his enemies mocked Him, spat on Him, beat Him, and crucified Him, by praying to His Father: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do". He did not like their attitudes and behavior, but He still had good will for them. Love is not a feeling. It is a decided perspective with principle.

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When we think clearly about it, all those who make themselves our enemies are simply ignorant. They "know not what they do". If they truly knew that they were sending themselves to hell by hating people who have done them no wrong, they would cease the ungodly attitudes and behavior. I believe that it is possible to remember that people who hate are just ignorant. Maybe they shouldn't be, but they are. Otherwise they would not hate us. And, if we can remember that we want them to have a chance to turn around and get their souls right with God, we can see that "love" in this sense is a principle that we can actually live by.

David said that he found that the Lord had prepared a table for him "in the presence of his enemies" (**Psalms 23:5**). There was something good for His enemies to see that He could rejoice in God's blessings and care while in the presence of those who hated him. The Lord can also help us to remember to look at our enemies with compassion toward their ignorance and with real concern regarding their destiny. We don't have to like what someone is doing or an attitude toward us, but we can remember that "they know not what they do" and that when they give account to God it will not be a good end for them unless they repent. Because we love our enemies, we hope that they will learn better and turn it around before it is too late. That is the love that Jesus commands.

Stephen learned this principle and learned how to love "in the presence of his enemies" (**Acts 7:51ff**). He did not like what they were inside and he did not like the stones they were throwing at him, but he found that the Lord gave him a "table" to eat from in the presence of his enemies. We can do this too!

