

## Be Separate! *(the devil will try to trap you)*

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Purpose: to encourage the listeners to get rid of anything that will weaken and lead to defeat.

The bible tells us that we are in a very real spiritual battle –

**Eph 6:11** - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

**Eph 6:12** - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

But the battles that we fight are subtle -

**2Co 10:3** - For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

**2Co 10:4** - For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

**2Co 10:5** - casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Before the children of Israel went in to possess the land, Moses warned them not to get involved with the way that the other nations worshipped and served their gods. The Lord had already showed them how to worship and would soon show them the place where they would bring their sacrifices.

Notice the things that they had to get rid of:

**Deu 12:1** - "These *are* the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.

**Deu 12:2** - You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.

**Deu 12:3** - And you shall destroy their altars, break their *sacred* pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place.

- The altars where they make sacrifices – are there places that we should no longer go?
- The sacred pillars, wooden and carved images – are there charms, pictures, statues, or any objects that we may have to get rid of?
- Remember how the counsel of Balaam caused the children to sin! Balaam encouraged the Moabites to seduce the men of Israel and worship their idols. This brought God's wrath upon them and they were almost defeated.

Two examples – the music that I listened to, and the car that I owned were things that I had to “get rid of”.

- Anything that is an idol to you must be destroyed (get rid of it).
- Do not use any of these things to worship the Lord.
- Don’t do what you think best, or what you want to do. So many say that they worship God in their own way. Do what God requires!

**Deu 12:8** - "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever *is* right in his own eyes—

Since we are moving from the wilderness experience to the promised land, we don’t want anything to weaken us and eventually cause us to be defeated by our enemies. Therefore:

- As the Lord to show you if there are altars that you need to get rid of.
- As the Lord to show you if there are any sacred pillars or images that must go.

Remember that these are traps that will weaken you and cause you to be defeated by your enemies.