

Jesus Culture's Kim Walker-Smith Paints Mental Picture of God's Throne Room

When you imagine God's throne room, what does it look like? Inspired by Revelation 4:8, Kim Walker-Smith describes one possibility—and it's enough to make you want to worship.

The Surprising Truth Hidden in Jesus' Genealogy

Most Bible readers hate reading through the genealogy sections of the Bible. They're long and boring and seem pointless to Christians today. But as this video points out, Jesus' genealogy conceals an incredible truth.

Bill Johnson: We Were Born Into a Spiritual War

Every day, Christians are called to fight back against the powers of darkness. Or in other words, Bill Johnson says, "Humanity was born into a war."

Remember '90s Christian Culture With This 'Jesus Freak' Music Video

Before Kevin Max, tobyMac and Michael Tait (currently leading Newsboys) were Christian radio icons, they were the band DC Talk. Get a blast from the past with their classic "Jesus Freak" music video, which is the epitome of all things '90s.

Should Your Family Travel to the Latest 'Planet of the Apes'?

As the title implies, *War for the Planet of the Apes* features wartime violence, from realistic brutality to monkeys on horseback firing guns. But does this summer blockbuster have a redemptive core of Christian values? Focus on the Family's Plugged In gives its review. {eoa}

TobyMac Video Powerfully Illustrates Your Choice to Speak Life or Speak Death

Proverbs 18:21 warns, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." TobyMac illustrates that verse in this powerful music video.

Stop It—The Devil Did Not Make You Do Anything

I have been counseling people almost two decades, and honestly, the devil gets a whole lot of scapegoating. I mean, I've heard the devil blamed for adultery, pornography, greed, embezzlement, fear and poor decisions, all the way down to the cupcake binge. Really I've heard so many stories where the devil has been blamed for a situation in which personal responsibility would have been a much better idea.

If a client isn't the problem, then they are not the solution. Let me explain this thought to you. You see if a couple comes in for counseling and the man blames the wife for all the problems, then he has no ability to be a solution, since he is not the problem. Rather, if he can see his own part of the problem then he can be the solution for that part of the problem.

If the devil is the problem, then as a counselor I'm really stuck. Now it's the devil who has all the power to be the

solution. I would have to dial up the devil and ask him to stop bothering my client so my client can improve. I know you know the devil is not taking calls to help people improve their lives lately, so I would be on indefinite hold and my client, the victim of the devil, would be unable to change.

I think you clearly know where I'm going. If I blame the devil, I am making myself unable to be the solution. This gets even crazier with Christians who are supposed to have power over the devil.

Then the story goes something like this... The devil (who I, as a believer, have been giving authority to over Christ) tempted, influenced or made me do my out-of-control behavior again. The devil, which I am stronger than, made me do it. I think we all have seen that T-shirt or bumper sticker, "The Devil Made Me Do It."

Stay with me here, it even gets more insane when we use the devil as a scapegoat. First let's talk about the devil. He (why are all the bad guys a he?), the devil, is a singular being. That means he, like us humans, can only be at one place at one time. He is not like God, everywhere all the time (omnipresent). The devil is a limited being in time and space like all of us.

If the devil is in Chicago, he can only be in Chicago. He can't be in LA, New York, Boston or Washington, D.C., at the same time. Now he would have to be pretty fast to be tempting my telephone client in Baton Rouge and Seattle within 20 minutes of each other. It's physically impossible.

I know this sounds insane, but welcome to my world. It reminds me of a joke I once heard. This joke was extremely funny to me because I worked for years in a psychiatric hospital.

Here goes my attempt at telling this silly joke. Three guys were in a psychiatric ward among others in the unit. They all believed they were God. This was getting practically

unmanageable in the unit as there were three people being God in the same group on a regular basis. So the nursing staff put all three guys who were god in a seclusion room. The nurses gave them their only assignment: to be let out. When they came out, there could only be one god. Having three gods to deal with was driving the nurses crazy during their shifts. So 30 minutes went by, and the men asked to come out; they had finished their assignment. The nurses intrigued, asked how you figured out who was God. One of them said, "Tony's God, Al is Jesus and I'm the Holy Ghost."

Let's get back to the devil. We do know he is one being, so this "one being" left his place trying to control world affairs. He traveled by flight, boat or bus to arrive at your house in, let's say, Nowhere, Ohio so that he could get you to do a cupcake binge!

Somehow I just don't think that happens. If the real devil with all his hate, fear and fallen beauty turned into ugliness came walking into your kitchen, you couldn't eat that cupcake, commit adultery, look at pornography or anything else to save your life. You would be screaming, crying or having an accident in your pajamas.

So you see the devil probably isn't a legitimate scapegoat for any out-of-control behavior. Remember, if you are not the problem, you are also not the solution. When you are the problem, you are the solution.

Now some of you Bible scholars might want to blame some of the angels that fell from heaven with the devil. You know, the demons. Demons are real, but you can still choose your behaviors. Also if you have more power than the devil, certainly you can ward off a few imps and be successful.

Hear my heart; I know there are spiritual influences, just like there are other influences that assist you in deciding to do something positive but ultimately barring severe

psychological disorders, you have to choose to do this behavior. Without the choice to do the behavior, what hope would there be for you to choose not to do the behavior?

Remember if you are the problem, you are the solution. I personally love being the problem. When I am the problem I know I am the solution. I will involve God and others in the solution but I am responsible for the solution. So congratulations: You are the problem, and you are your solution! {eoa}

Doug Weiss, Ph.D., is a nationally known author, speaker and licensed psychologist. He is the executive director of Heart to Heart Counseling Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the author of several books, including Get a Grip. You may contact Dr. Weiss via his website, or on his Facebook or by phone at 719-278-3708 or through email at heart2heart@.

Prophecy Briefing: How to Discern Angelic Activity

Do angels interact with Christians every day? Pastor Dave Williams says, "Every sign we would expect to see in the last days is now in full swing. This includes the amazing intervention of angels." Watch the video to learn more.

Spirit-Led Musicians Turn the Apostle's Creed Into Amazing Worship Song

The Digital Age's single "Believe" features an interesting twist. The song adapts the famous Apostle's Creed into a modern worship single. You'll still hear "I believe in God the Father Almighty"—but as you've never heard it before.

He Went to Church to Win Her Heart—But Then Jesus Won His

When Paco asked Elaine out for a Sunday date, she replied, "Every Sunday I go to church." Paco replied, "That's OK. I'll go to church with you." But his plans to woo her got sidetracked when Jesus wooed him. Watch their powerful story.