

Illusion?

Recently, my wife, Tammi, and I were with a small group of friends. Brock Gill, an amazing Christian illusionist, was a part of the group.

Someone asked him to do a couple of “tricks” for us. He had been traveling all day with his wife, and was obviously very tired, but graciously agreed to entertain us (for free ... which was really cool).

He had us gather in a half-circle and Tammi sat on the floor in front of me and directly in front of Brock. Of course Tammi’s first question was if he could make *me*

disappear (there is a comedian in every group). He laughed and took out a deck of cards.

All the cards had blue backs. At his request, someone picked a card and showed it to all of us (four of clubs), without Brock seeing it. The card was placed back in the deck. As he fanned out the deck of blue cards, one of them had a *red* back. The card was revealed and it was the four of clubs. Pretty neat.

Then he knelt down in front of Tammi and said it was her turn. He laid the red four of clubs face down on the floor beside him. He fanned out the remaining cards (all still blue) and had Tammi pick one. She chose the queen of hearts, again showing all of us, but not Brock. The card was placed back in the deck. Just as he did before, Brock fanned

out the
cards. But this time they all remained blue. There was no red
card. He
shuffled them together again, fanned them out, and still no
red card. Shuffled
again, fanned them out and still no red card.

Looking rather perplexed, Brock reached beside him and
turned over the red card on the floor, which had been the four
of clubs when he
laid it down a few seconds before. Amazingly, as he turned it
over, it was the
queen of hearts! Tammi was (and still is) flabbergasted. She
exclaimed: "That
is impossible. I watched that card the whole time. It never
moved!"

The next day I told Brock that Tammi just could not get over
the fact that she somehow missed the illusion. Brock smiled
and told me
something profound. He said, "There is a *dual* reality. What
your eyes and mind focus on is *not* what is *really* happening."
Wow!

We all live in a dual reality and because of that Paul
commanded, "Set your affection on things above, not on things
on the earth" (Col. 3:2). This world we live in and the things
in it, are
in many ways, an illusion. While we live life here on earth,
there is another
reality. There's a *spiritual* battle
going on all around us, a struggle that is against rulers,
against authorities,
against the cosmic powers over this present darkness and
against the spiritual
forces of evil in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12).

But what do we do? We get so consumed with the temporal

things on earth—jobs, houses, cars, salaries, sports, clothes—the illusions of what is important, that we miss what is *really* going on—the spiritual warfare and the intense battle. Forces of evil are desperately and diligently seeking to destroy our homes, our children, our marriages even our lives, and sadly, too often, with great success. Because we are focused on a fleeting illusion, we are missing the *reality*. Our affections in this dual reality have been fixed on all the things that *simply do not matter*.

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Luke 12:34). Where is your treasure? What do you read? What do you watch? Where do you spend your time? That is a very good gauge as to which of the dual realities you focus upon.

This week in your Christ walk journey and as you move toward the New Year, take inventory of where you have fixed your affections. Which *reality* do you live in? Are you focused on stuff that makes no difference to eternity? Set your mind, your affections and your heart on the things above. Set them on God things. Your life will change as you realize what is real and worth your focus and what is but a fleeting illusion.

PRAYER POWER WEEK OF 12/27/2010

This week ask God to help you take inventory of where you have fixed your emotions. Take what He shows you and pray for His help to set your mind and affections on what matters for eternity. Ask Him to show you what’s important to

Him and pray what's on His heart.

Pray for a new vision and determination to do your part in winning the

lost and expanding His kingdom.

Pray that He show you what He wants you to accomplish each day so that

yours days would be full, but not overwhelming. Pray that revival would spread

across our nation and around the world.

Continue to remember Israel, our military and our leaders.

Luke 12:34; Col 3:2; Eph. 6:12