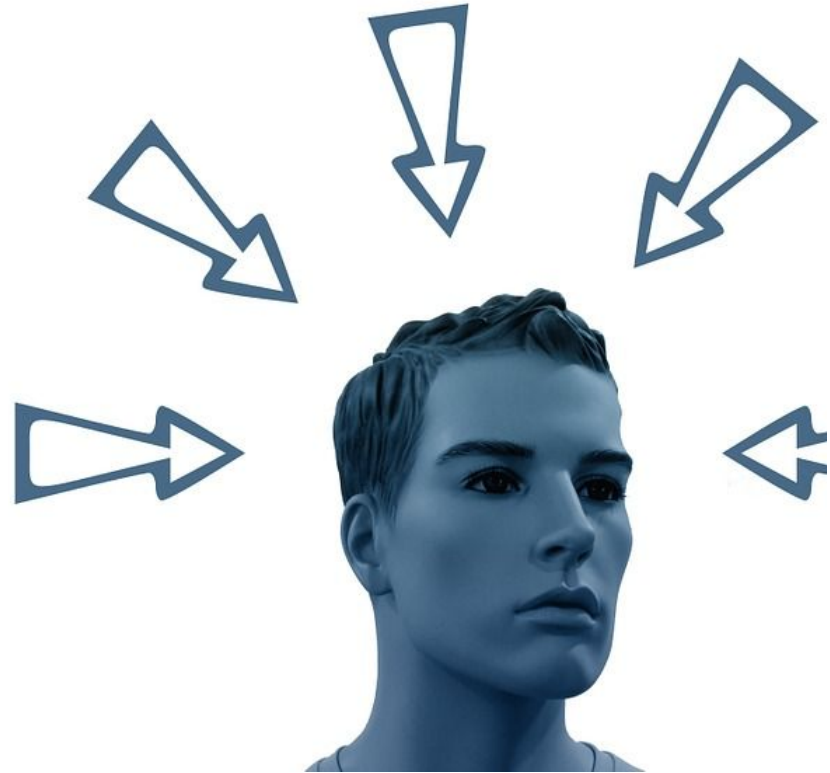


Who or What  
Influences  
You?



**Influence** -- the process by which an individual's attitudes, beliefs, character, development, or behavior are modified by the presence or action of others

There is a  
battle for the  
influence of  
the souls of  
men

Only 51% of America's pastors have  
a biblical worldview

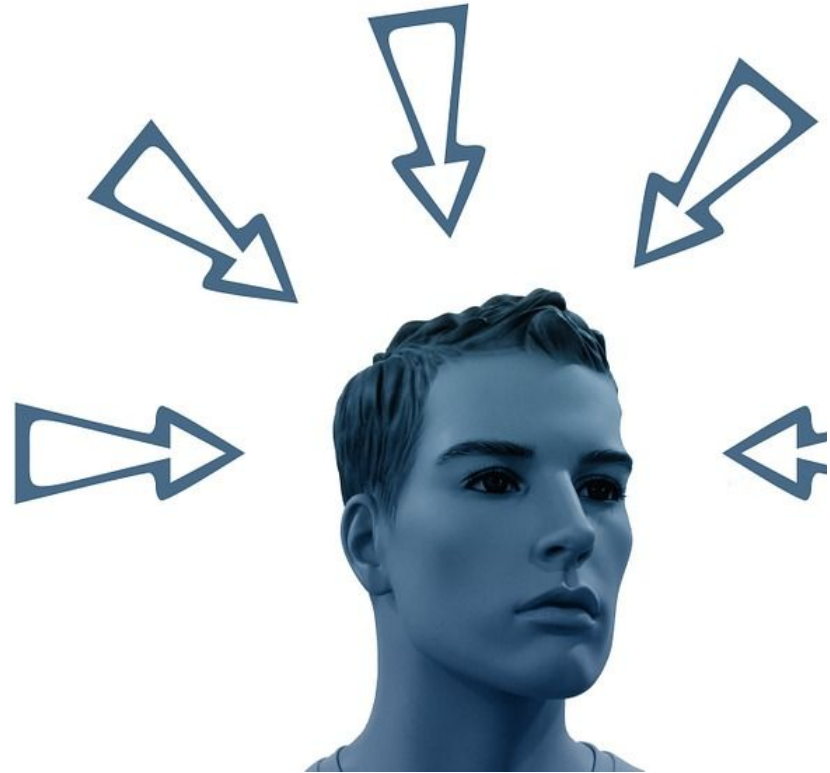
Only 12% of 18-24 yr olds identify as  
evangelical Christians

75% of Christian teens leave their  
faith when they attend college  
...bombarded with competing  
worldviews & professors challenging  
their faith

The LORD  
gave a clear  
and simple  
command &  
consequence

Gen 2:15-17 ESV The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

# How We Drift Away from the Influence of God



Satan  
directly  
challenges  
God's  
Word

Gen 3:1-7 ESV Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

# We add to the word of God

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 *but God said*, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, *neither shall you touch it*, lest you die.'"

We  
contradict  
the word of  
God

4 But the serpent  
said to the  
woman, "*You*  
*will not surely*  
*die.*



# We buy into the promise of enlightenment

5 For God knows that when you eat of it *your eyes will be opened*, and you will *be like God*,

We bask in the glory of  
self determination

“You will be like God  
knowing good and evil”

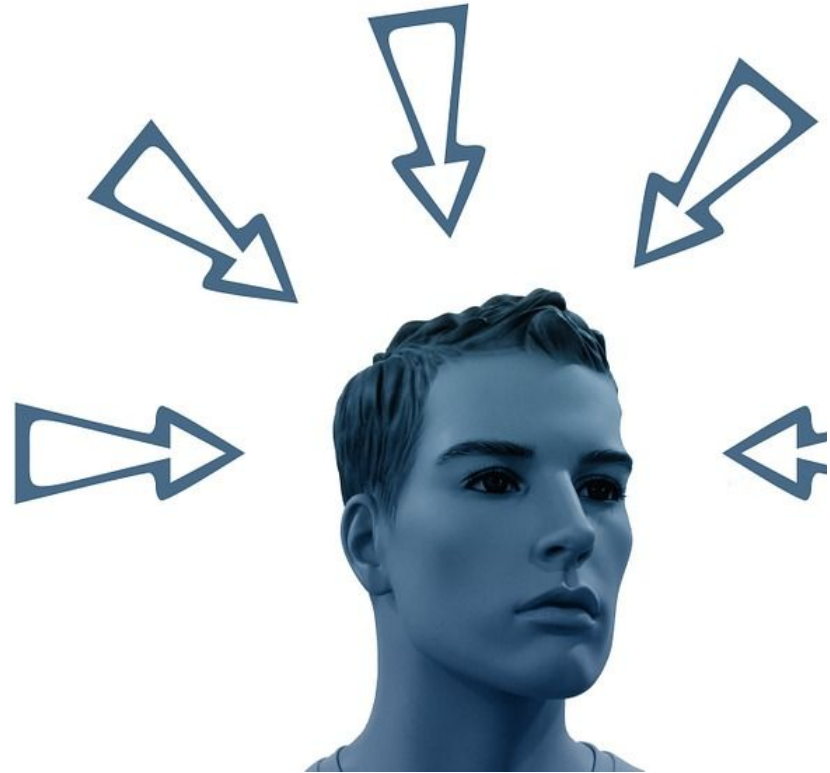
We choose to  
live without  
regard to what  
God has said -  
and to  
influence  
others to do  
the same

6 So when the woman saw  
that the tree was good for  
food, and that it was a delight  
to the eyes, and that the tree  
was to be desired to make  
one wise, she took of its fruit  
and ate, and she also gave  
some to her husband who  
was with her, and he ate.

We attempt  
to solve  
problems  
with our  
own  
wisdom

7 Then the eyes of both  
were opened, and they  
knew that they were  
naked. And they sewed  
fig leaves together and  
made themselves  
loincloths.

# Truths for Living Under the Influence of God



# God's commandments are for good

Deu 10:12-13 ESV "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today *for your good?*

God is (not just truthful) He is  
truth

Joh 14:6 ESV *Jesus said to him, "I am* the  
way, and *the truth*, and the life. No one comes  
to the Father except through me.

# God's word is not to be added to or contradicted

Rev 22:18 ESV I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: *if anyone adds to them*, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,



God is the source of all true  
wisdom

Pro 2:6 ESV For *the LORD gives wisdom*;  
from his mouth come knowledge and  
understanding;

# God is the one who determines what is good or evil

Isa 5:20-21 ESV Woe to those who call evil  
good and good evil, who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are  
wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their  
own sight!

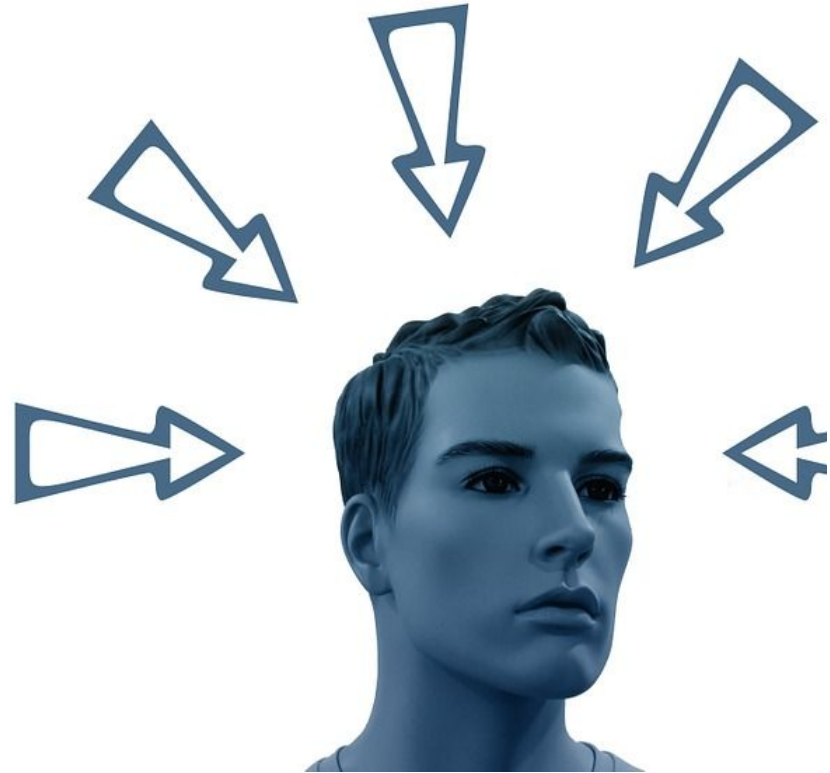
There is an enemy who wants to convince us that God does not have our best interest at heart

Rom 8:32 ESV *He who did not spare his own Son* but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

My Way or His Way,

My Thoughts or

His Thoughts



Isa 55:6-11 ESV "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For *my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways*, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 "For as the *rain and the snow come down from heaven* and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but *it shall accomplish that which I purpose*, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.