

Things to Keep in Mind When Going to Camp

Each year young people go to Florida College Camps throughout the country. Most everyone who attends finds them both enjoyable and spiritually-uplifting. Those who organize and conduct these camps are responsible Christians who seek to create an environment that promotes wholesome recreation, godly values, and spiritual growth.

But no matter how good the atmosphere is, there are a few things young Christians need to keep in mind when going to camp. If you will be attending this year, think about these three reminders:

Satan does not view camp as off-limits. It doesn't matter who or where you are, the devil wants to destroy you: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Satan did not shy away from tempting Jesus, the very Son of God (cf. Matt. 4:1-11). He even led many to sin while they were assembled as a church (cf. 1 Cor. 11:17-22, 30; Gal. 1:6-8). The adversary, thus, views "Bible camp" as just another hunting ground. He doesn't care if the camp leaders are good Christians or if you are surrounded by spiritually-minded peers. If he can get you to sin, he will. So "be sober" and "be vigilant." In other words, keep your eyes open, and be ready to "resist" (cf. Jas. 4:7).

God does not accept irreverent worship. Even if the atmosphere is more casual and recreational, when it comes time to worship God, He must be regarded as holy (cf. Lev. 10:1-3). Psalm 89:7 says, "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him." No matter the environment, the Lord expects Christians to be reverent. When you are at camp, do not allow the informal setting to dictate the attitude and expression of your worship. No one has the right to become "familiar" or "casual" with God. When you go to classes throughout the day and devotionals in the evenings, make sure your worship is still in "spirit" and in "truth" (cf. Jn. 4:24).

Attendance does not make anyone more spiritual. Simply being present at camp is not going to automatically make anyone a strong Christian. While the association with other disciples, the heart-felt singing, and the study of God's word can help those who attend, there is more to growing into spiritual maturity than spending a week at camp. You are going to have to work the other 51 weeks out of the year, as well. Also, do not allow the "spiritual high" from the week to become haughtiness at home toward peers who did not attend. Use the week to God's glory and for your growth, but realize camp does not make you spiritual, it requires continual renewing of the mind and daily discipleship (cf. Rom. 12:1-2; Lk. 9:23).

These are just a few things to remember when you go to camp this year. I hope you will keep your eyes open, your hearts pure, and your lives spiritual, in and out of camp.

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