

GOD AT THE MOVIES

Iron Man 3 • God at the Movies, Part 3
Ed Noble, Lead Pastor • June 13 & 15, 2014

QUESTION: Why do we keep watching?

↳ **ANSWER:** "Hero's Journey" is a thread deep in our psyche. (Credit to Dave Schmeltzer)

↳ The journey always involves a struggle against evil... a struggle that matters!

↳ Somehow we intuit that this IS our story.

IRON MAN 3... "We create our own demons."

⁶But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." ⁷Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:6–8

- It's about HOW we are in the world, not just WHAT we do.

WINNING

1. UNDERSTAND the VINTAGE TEMPTATION.

⁴The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God [or "as gods"], knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:4–5

- ▶ Evil... dominates — "give it an inch..."
- ▶ God... sacrifices, wins, loves...

2. "EVIL ANONYMOUS": Evil rarely comes at you as "evil".

²¹But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. [lit. "get away from everything that looks evil"]

1 Thessalonians 5:21–22

- Grown up real life is full of "fine lines".

3. CLEAN SLATE PROTOCOL

*"Come now, and let us reason together,"
Says the LORD,
"Though your sins are as scarlet,
They will be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They will be like wool."*

Isaiah 1:18

"WE CREATE OUR OWN DEMONS"... REPRISÉ

- ✓ The littleness of evil... Pray "search me" prayers. (See Psalm 139:23)
- ✓ Need for "heart surgery"... Pray "I am trusting YOU, not me" prayers. (See Ezekiel 36:25-26)
- ✓ God has a "new you" ready to emerge... Pray a "Here's my life Jesus" prayer.

¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

²¹God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

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↳ The journey always involves a _____... a struggle that _____!

↳ Somehow we _____ that this IS _____.

IRON MAN 3... " _____ our own demons."

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- It's about _____ we are in the world, not just _____.

WINNING

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- ▶ Evil... _____ — "give it an inch..."
- ▶ God... _____...

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- Grown up real life is full of _____.

3. _____ PROTOCOL

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"WE CREATE OUR OWN DEMONS"... REPRISÉ

- ✓ The _____... Pray _____ prayers. (See Psalm 139:23)
- ✓ Need for _____... Pray _____ prayers. (See Ezekiel 36:25-26)
- ✓ God has a "new you" _____... Pray a _____ prayer.

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