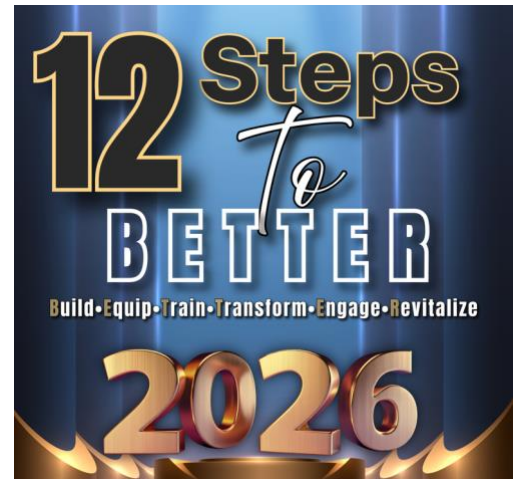


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2026 Is The Year Of B.E.T.T.E.R.:

**(BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, EQUIPPING, TRAINING, TRANSFORMATION,
ENGAGE EVANGELISM, REVITALIZE)**



STEP 6: TAKE AN INWARD JOURNEY

“I MAY HAVE AN IDOL”

Wednesday in the Word

September 2, 2026

Introduction

This month in our 12 Steps to Better journey, we are going inward. That means examining the things that have taken root in our hearts, maybe even unknowingly. One of the hardest questions we can ask ourselves is: “Have I made something more important than God in my life?” This is the heart of idolatry – anything we place above God in affection, trust, or attention.

“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Exodus 20:3

Reflection Question: What’s one thing you find yourself thinking about or reaching for first thing in the morning?

1. IDOLS ARE OFTEN HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Exodus 20:3 NKJV

A. Idols Aren’t Always Golden Statues

- Today’s idols often come in the form of money, approval, status, comfort, control, or even relationships.
- Colossians 3:5 says greed and evil desires are also idolatry.

B. What We Seek First Reveals Our God

C. Internal Idols Lead To Internal Darkness

- When our eyes are fixed on the wrong things, we lose spiritual clarity.
“But if your eye is bad [spiritually blind], your whole body will be full of darkness [devoid of God’s precepts]. So, if the [very] light inside you [your inner self, your heart, your conscience] is darkness, how great and terrible is that darkness!” **Matthew 6:23 AMP**
- Idols darken our discernment and distract us from our true source – God.

2. IDOLS MUST BE BROKEN, NOT MANAGED

“They broke down the altars... cut down... burned... beat into powder.”

2 Chronicles 34:4,7 NKJV

A. Josiah Didn’t Negotiate With Idols – He Destroyed Them

- His inward desire to seek God led to bold, outward action.
- He cleansed his land, his city, and his heart space of anything competing with God.

B. You Cannot Serve Two Masters

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord].” **Matthew 6:24 NKJV**

Matthew 6:24: “Trying to split loyalty between God and something else will always end in frustration, compromise, and spiritual dryness.”

C. Let Go or Be Owned

- “If we won’t surrender it, it’s likely owning us.
- Freedom comes through full destruction, not careful containment.

3. ROOT OUT THE WHY BEHIND THE IDOL

“Therefore I tell you, stop being worried or anxious (perpetually uneasy, distracted) about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, as to what you will wear. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing? **Matthew 6:25 NKJV**

A. Anxiety Often Exposes The Idol

- We worship what we believe will save us or secure us.
- Are we afraid of not having enough? Being alone? Being unrecognized?

B. Idolatry Often Grows From Insecurity

- Our earthly desires – sexuality, status, greed – often mask unmet needs or wounded places.
- The cure is not more stuff, but deeper trust in God’s care.

C. Replace Idols With God's Truth

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Romans 12:2 NKJV

- Romans 12:2 (from earlier studies): Renew your mind.
- Replace anxious thoughts with affirmations of God’s sufficiency, sovereignty, and love.

REFLECTION:

1. What is something I think I need that may actually be an idol?
2. What do I fear losing the most?
3. Where do I look for comfort, affirmation, or identity before turning to God?

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The background is a solid off-white color, and there are no margins, text, or other markings present.