

# The Power of Influence

## Introduction

**Influence: Verb** - "to affect or alter by indirect or intangible means"; "to have an effect on the condition or development of."

**Noun** - "the act or power of producing an effect without apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command"; "corrupt interference with authority for personal gain"; the power or capacity of causing an effect in indirect or intangible ways"; "one that exerts influence."

(Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)

1. **The concept of influencing another person is quite simple.**
  - A. **According to the definition, when you influence another person, you are affecting or altering what they do by indirect methods.**
    - 1) **Through something you say or do, you have an effect on what they do or how they develop.**
2. **I'll begin this lesson by talking about the influences of others.**

## The Influence of Others

**There are two types of ways in which other people can influence you – good influences or bad influences.**

### 1. **The Good Influences.**

#### A. **Good influences can lead us to study God's word.**

##### 1) **The Jews in Berea serve as a good influence.**

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

##### 2) **Timothy serves as a good influence.**

**2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17 - results of his study habits**

#### B. **Good influences can lead us to pray more.**

##### 1) **Paul taught the brethren in Thessalonica to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)**

##### 2) **Jesus prayed on several occasions.**

### **In the garden of Gethsemane**

Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."

### **In the morning**

Mark 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

### **After His baptism**

Luke 3:21 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.

**C. Good influences can lead us to assemble with the saints on a regular basis.**

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

**D. Good influences can show us how to overcome sin.**

**1) Jesus showed that you can overcome sin.**

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest **who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses**, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**2) Jesus set an example for us to follow.**

**1 Peter 2:21-25**

**E. The greatest influence, Jesus Christ, will show us the way to Heaven.**

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

## 2. **The Bad Influences.**

### A. **Satan was a bad influence over Adam and Eve.**

**Genesis 3:1-5**

- 1) **Then Eve influenced Adam to sin (v.6)**

### B. **Bad influences can lead us to lose our faith.**

- 1) **Hymenaeus and Philetus influenced others to the overthrowing of their faith.**

2 Timothy 2:17-18 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

### C. **Bad influences can lead us to engage in sexual immoralities.**

- 1) **The church of Christ in Thyatira had a member whom Jesus called Jezebel.**

- a. **She was influencing the members to engage in sexual immoralities.**

**Revelation 2:18-21**

### D. **Bad influences can lead us to a “root of bitterness.”**

**Hebrews 12:14-15**

### E. **Bad influences can lead us in the direction of disobedience.**

**Galatians 3:1; 5:7-9**

## **Our Influence Upon Others**

### **1. We are to be an influence upon the people of the world.**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

### **2. We are to be an influence upon our family members.**

#### **A. Wives and husbands can be good influences upon each other.**

1 Peter 3:1-2 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

1 Corinthians 7:16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

#### **B. Parents can influence their children to walk in the ways of the Lord.**

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

#### **1) How is this training accomplished?**

### **3. Our influence upon brethren in Christ.**

#### **A. The brethren in Thessalonica had a good influence on the brethren in Macedonia and Achaia.**

**1 Thessalonians 1:5-10**

### **4. We must be very careful not to influence a person toward practicing things that are ungodly.**

**Matthew 18:6-7**

## **Conclusion**

- 1. Are we influencing others to follow God?**
- 2. Are we being influenced by others to walk away from God?**
- 3. Instead of being influenced by the world, let us be influenced by God through the wonderful lessons taught in His holy word.**
- 4. It is only through that way that we will be able to:**
  - A. Influence others toward righteousness.**
  - B. Overcome the evil influences of the world.**

