

list, when sinful thoughts and actions occur with greater frequency and yet cause less concern and less grief.

We sometimes sing, "Lord, lift me up, and let me stand, by faith on heaven's tableland; a higher plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on higher ground." That's a wonderful old gospel song! But it has nothing to do with altitude! Nothing! But it has everything to do with our relationship to the Lord and to His holiness. It expresses our aspirations to draw closer to Him (note the locational terms) in love and devotion, in faith and obedience, in righteousness and godly living.

If we depart from God we depart from daily, vital faith in Him, and we move toward idolatry. And one of the desires that tend to draw us away from the Lord is this desire to make God tangible, substantial, and physically real.

This desire for a God who is visible, a God who can be touched physically, has shown up many times in the history of Christendom, as well as in other religions. Prior to the Protestant Reformation of the Sixteenth Century, this desire for a substantial God found expression in the Roman Catholic Church in the veneration of statues and paintings of Christ and Mary, the apostles and the saints. In the Eastern Orthodox Church the desire expressed itself in the veneration of icons and images. In both the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox churches this desire was further gratified by the alleged transformation of bread and wine into the physical body and blood of Christ in the mass. This