

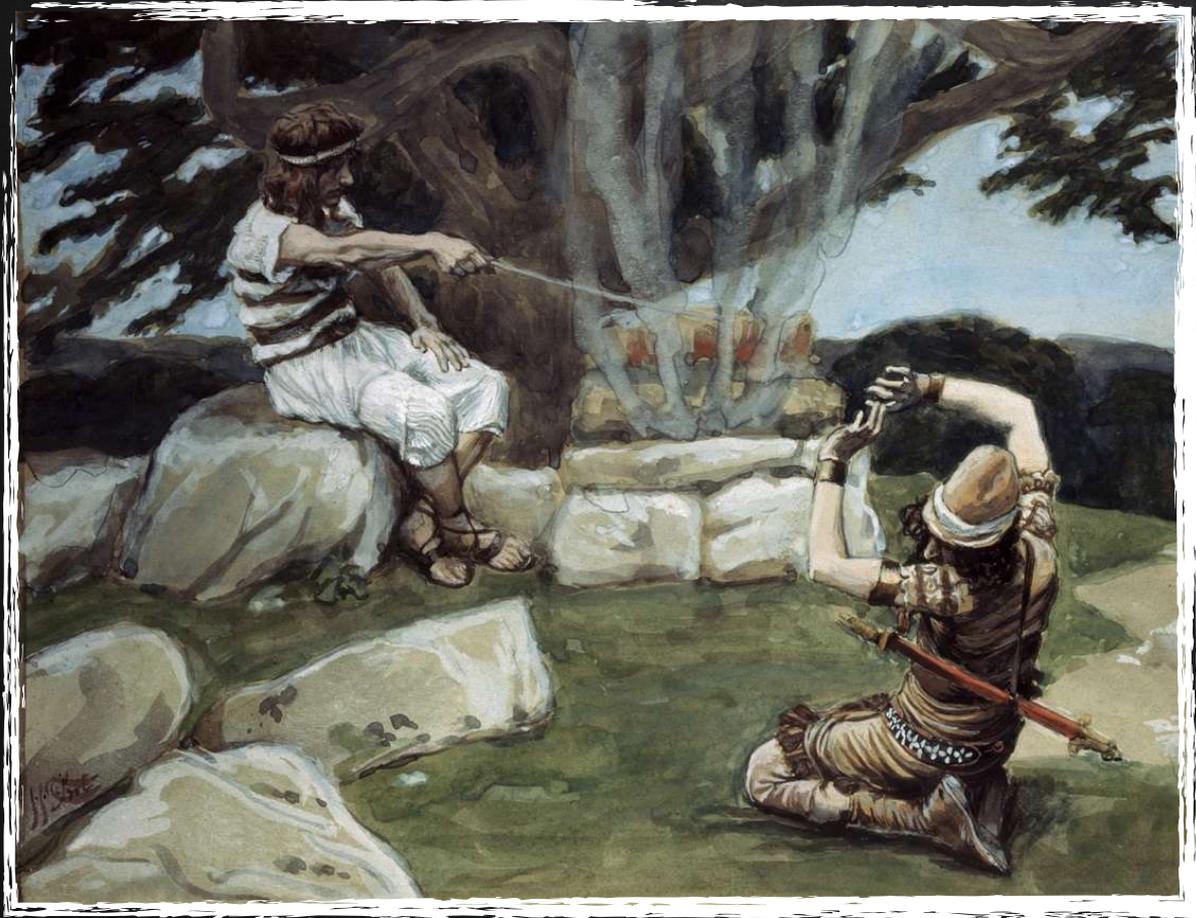


GIDEON'S COURAGE

“The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor! ... Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you? ... I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”

(Judges 6:12, 14, 16; CSB)

Our confidence and strength comes through trusting in the promise that the Lord is with us. But if you want to grow in courage, you have to exercise courage.



The Courage to Encounter

Judges 6:17-24



Courage at Home

Judges 6:25-29

Judges 6:25 (CSB)

25 On that very night the LORD said to him, “Take your father’s young bull and a second bull seven years old. Then tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.

Judges 6:26 (CSB)

26 Build a well-constructed altar to the LORD your God on the top of this mound. Take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down.”

If you want to experience Jesus as Savior, you must follow Him as Lord. For Christ, it is a packaged deal. You cannot have one without the other.

“You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.”

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20; CSB)

“Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God... Do not have other gods beside me.”

(Exodus 20:3-5; CSB)

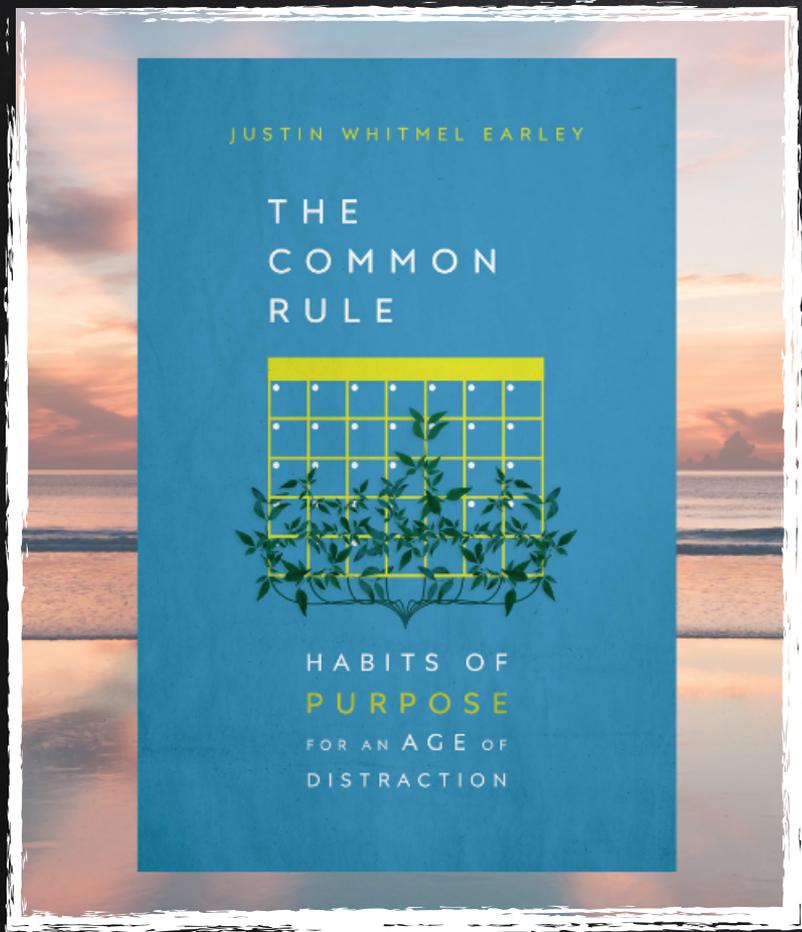
Keller: “Idolatry means turning a good thing into an ultimate thing. An idol is...

- Anything more important to you than God,
- Anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God,
- Anything you seek to give you what only God can give,
- Anything that is so central and essential to your life, that should lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living.”

When it comes to the idols of our heart, our TREASURE reveals what we love; our NIGHTMARES expose what we trust; and our HABITS betray what we obey.

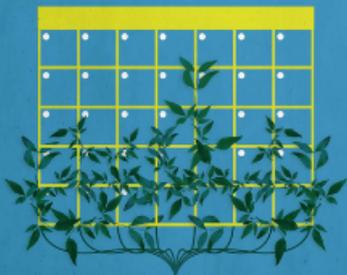
“For where your treasure is, there your
heart will be also.”

(Matthew 6:21; CSB)



JUSTIN WHITMEL EARLEY

THE
COMMON
RULE



HABITS OF
PURPOSE
FOR AN AGE OF
DISTRACTION



“Habits form much more than our schedules; *they form our hearts*... The habits we play out day after day are not tangential to our worship but actually central to it.

Worship is formation, and formation is worship. As the psalmist put it, those who make and trust in idols will become like them. So we become our habits.” (Earley)

- **Habit:** “Wake up exhausted again because I never get to bed on time.”
- **Liturgy of wrong belief:** “I am not a creature; I am infinite. My body will be fine. I am a god.”

- **Habit:** “Look at work emails on my phone before getting out of bed.”
- **Idolatry:** “I can miss a quiet time, but I can’t miss a quick response. Unless I’m well-regarded in the office, I’m not worth anything.”

- **Habit:** “If a manager asks for something late in the day on an unrealistic deadline, always say yes. If a social invite comes up, always go for it.”
- **Idolatry:** “I will become the best version of myself by expanding my options, so I can’t say no. I may be tired and busy, my family may be exhausted by my unpredictability, but if I don’t preserve choice, I can’t be who I really am.”

- **Habit:** “Even when I sense all of the above is getting out of control, even when life is scattered or busy, resist any rules that would restrict technology use and work schedules.”
- **Idolatry:** “To limit myself is to restrict my freedom. And I’m not fully human without my freedom of choice in every moment. The good life comes from choosing what you want.”

“Little children, guard yourselves from idols.” (1 John 5:21; CSB)

Judges 6:27 (CSB)

27 So Gideon took ten of his male servants and did as the LORD had told him. But because he was too afraid of his father's family and the men of the city to do it in the daytime, he did it at night.

“Evidently obedience was essential and heroism was optional.” (Davis)

Judges 6:28-29 (CSB)

28 When the men of the city got up in the morning, they found Baal's altar torn down, the Asherah pole beside it cut down, and the second bull offered up on the altar that had been built.

29 They said to each other, "Who did this?"

After they made a thorough investigation, they said, "Gideon son of Joash did it."

Judges 6:30-31 (CSB)

30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, “Bring out your son. He must die, because he tore down Baal’s altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.” 31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, “Would you plead Baal’s case for him? Would you save him?”

Judges 6:31-32 (CSB)

31 ...“Whoever pleads his case will be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead his own case because someone tore down his altar.” 32 That day Gideon was called Jerubbaal, since Joash said, “Let Baal contend with him,” because he tore down his altar.

*“As for me and my family, we will
worship the LORD.”
(Joshua 24:15; CSB)*

“How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him. But if Baal, follow him.”

(1 Kings 18:21; CSB)

“No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Matthew 6:24; CSB)



Take
inventory.



Decide
whom you
will serve.



**Smash your
idols.**

“If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.”

(Matthew 6:29-30; CSB)



**Deal with the
consequences.**