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an evil spirit or being; a fallen angel, expelled from heaven for rebellion against God; the chief of the traitorous angels; the merciless enemy and tempter of the human race. In the New Testament, the word is frequently and erroneously used for *demon*.

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the **devil**.*

Matthew 4:1

- 2. A very wicked person, and in ludicrous language, a great evil. In profane language, it is an expletive (curse word) expressing wonder, vexation, etc.
- 3. An idol, or false god, as in Leviticus 17:7.

*Then he appointed for himself priests for the high places, for the **devils**, and the calf idols which he had made.*

2 Chronicles 11:15

de·vo·tion, noun [Latin, *devotio-nem*, “dedication by a vow, solemn promise.”]

- 1. Strong love or affection; loyalty.
- 2. The state of being dedicated, consecrated, or solemnly set apart for a particular purpose. The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance, by solemn acts of **devotion** to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the



devotion

- other, from this time forward forever. John Adams
- 3. A solemn attention to the Supreme Being in worship; a yielding of the heart and affections to God, with reverence, faith and piety, in religious duties, particularly in prayer and meditation; devoutness.
- But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his trickery, your minds will be led astray from sincere and pure **devotion** to Christ.* 2 Corinthians 11:3
- 4. External worship; acts of religion; performance of religious duties.

*For as I passed by, and beheld your **devotions**, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you.* Acts 17:23 (KJV)

- 5. Prayer to the Supreme Being. A Christian will be regular in his morning and evening **devotions**.

di·a·lec·tic, noun [Latin, *dialec-tica*, “art of philosophical discussion or discourse.”]

A theory created by Enlightenment German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. He taught that the conflict of a thesis and anti-thesis result in a synthesis. The

synthesis becomes the new thesis and the process repeats, and this is how truth is determined. In practice, the process of the **dialectic** is what moves someone from a belief in absolute truth to relativism.

dic·ta·tor, noun [from Latin verb, *dictare*, “say often”; “prescribe.”]

- 1. A ruler who has complete power over the government of a country. One who dictates; one who prescribes rules for the direction of others. Satan, the leader or **dictator** of devils, is the opposite, not of God, but of Michael. C. S. Lewis
- 2. One invested with absolute authority. In ancient Rome, a magistrate, created in times of exigence and distress, and invested with unlimited power. He remained in office six months. Yet, Julius Caesar made himself “**dictator** for life” against Roman laws.



dictator

diktat, noun [German; Latin, *dictatum*, “dictate.”]

- 1. An authoritative or dogmatic statement or decree. In 2020–21, government officials

ordered **diktats** regarding the wearing of masks, “social distancing” and the closing of “non-essential” businesses, schools and churches.

- 2. A dictated peace; a harsh penalty or settlement imposed upon a defeated party by the victor.



diligent

dil·i·gent, adjective [Latin, *diligentum*, “attentive, careful.”]

- 1. Working hard; steady; industrious. Let us never become lazy in defending our God-given freedoms but remain **diligent** to guard them. *The hand of the **diligent** will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor.* Proverbs 12:24
- 2. Steady in application to business; constant in effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken; assiduous; attentive; industrious; not idle or negligent; applied to persons. *You shall teach them **diligently** to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.* Deuteronomy 6:7
- Be **diligent** to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* 2 Timothy 2:15
- 3. Steadily applied; prosecuted

with care and constant effort; careful; assiduous; as, make **diligent** search. *I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, and my spirit makes **diligent** search.* Psalm 77:6 (KJV)

dim·in·ish, verb [Latin, *diminuerere*, “to break into small pieces.”]

- 1. To make or become smaller or less; to reduce in size, amount or importance; to decrease. If we are not vigilant, our freedoms will gradually **diminish** without us realizing, until it is too late.
- 2. To lessen; to make less or smaller, by any means; opposed to increase and augment; as, to **diminish** the size of a thing by contraction, or by cutting off a part; to **diminish** a number by subtraction; to **diminish** the revenue by limiting commerce, or reducing the customs; to **diminish** strength or safety; to **diminish** the heat of a room. It is particularly applied to bulk and quantity, as shorten is applied to length. *The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will **diminish** their brightness.* Joel 3:15
- 3. To lessen; to impair; to degrade. *Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor **diminished**.* Exodus 34:7
- To the kindly influence of Christianity we owe that degree of civil freedom, and political and social happiness which mankind now enjoys. In proportion as the genuine effects of Christianity are **diminished** in any nation

. . . in the same proportion will the people of that nation recede from the blessings of genuine freedom. Dr. Jedidah Morse

- 4. In music, to take from a note by a sharp, flat or natural.

dis·cern, verb [Latin, *discernere*, “to separate, divide or distinguish.”]

- 1. To discover; to see; to distinguish by the eye. *Hypocrites! You can **discern** the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not **discern** this time?* Luke 12:56
- 2. To discover by the intellect; to distinguish; hence, to have knowledge of; to judge. *He who keeps His command will experience nothing harmful; and a wise man’s heart **discerns** both time and judgment.* Ecclesiastes 8:5
- 3. To see or understand the difference; to make distinction; as, to **discern** between good and evil, truth and falsehood. *Then you shall again **discern** between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.* Malachi 3:18



discern

dis·ci·ple, noun [from Latin verb, *discere*, “to learn.”]

- 1. A learner; a scholar; one who receives instruction from

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