

# Disaster & Famine Relief (Unions with ADRA AU/NZ)

## False Gods

Romans 1:25 — “[They] exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

Anything that relates to our life and is not completely in God’s hands can become a false god. The Greeks, Romans, and other ancient peoples were aware of this because, for them, everything could become a god. Hence, they created Hephaestus, the god of workers; Mammon, the god of money; Himeros, the god of sex, and so forth.

We must admit that, as human beings, we are addicted to false gods. For example, work is a blessing, but when it becomes the single, top priority, it becomes like the god Hephaestus in our lives. Sex was idealised by God before sin, but when we fail to follow God’s established pattern for our sexuality, it becomes a false god like Himeros. Any one of these false gods can destroy our spiritual life.

In Romans 1:25 Paul speaks of the human attempt to replace the worship of the one true God with the worship of creations and creatures. Paul claims that this kind of worship is based on a lie that will never make a human being truly happy. He calls this kind of attitude foolishness (see Romans 1:22). You must understand that it’s crazy to look for true happiness in things and people. Only a fool wants peace by seeking self-fulfilment, addictions, or true happiness in financial resources. In God alone, we are fully happy.

One of the most destructive false gods is the god of greed and the unbridled pursuit of money. That’s why Jesus said: “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Luke 16:13).

Faithfulness and generosity are the best way to get rid of greed. When we decide to faithfully return ten percent of our income as a tithe and choose a percentage for the regular return of offerings, we are allowing God to every day kill the false god of greed that tries to dominate us.

**Appeal:** As you return your tithes and offerings, ask God to help you kill the false gods that are controlling the various aspects of your life. Decide to put self last and God first.