

## Words That Hinder & Words That Help Our Growth – Part 4 | Apathy

*Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.*  
**2 Corinthians 13:5 (MSG)**

### Words that Hinder & Words That Help Our Growth:

#### I. Compromise.

- **Our measure of testing is not simply self-evaluation, it is Biblical obedience to the life of Christ.**

*Do what God's teaching says; don't just listen and do nothing. When you only sit and listen, you are fooling yourselves. Hearing God's teaching and doing nothing is like looking at your face in the mirror and doing nothing about what you saw. You go away and immediately forget how bad you looked. But when you look into God's perfect law that sets people free, pay attention to it. If you do what it says, you will have God's blessing. Never just listen to his teaching and forget what you heard.*  
**James 1:22-25 (ERV)**

*Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not to do it.*  
**James 4:17 (NLT)**

#### II. Apathy.

*I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.*  
**Proverbs 8:17 (ESV)**

- **We become reckless.**
- **We become rebellious.**
- **We become apathetic.**
- **Apathy always leads to spiritual ruin.**

#### The result of living apathetically?

- **Apathy causes us to put God in a box.**
- **We go from a relational approach to God to a systematic approach.**

*So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant."*  
**II Kings 5:9-15 (NIV)**

- **We have to go from thinking we know, to knowing we know.**

#### How do we overcome apathy?

##### 1. Repent and change the way we think and act.

*But I'm happy now, not because I made you uncomfortable, but because the distress I caused you has led you to change the way you think and act. You were distressed in a godly way, so we haven't done you any harm.<sup>10</sup> In fact, to be distressed in a godly way causes people to change the way they think and act and leads them to be saved. No one can regret that. But the distress that the world causes brings only death.*  
**2 Corinthians 7:9-10 (GW)**

*Just see what this godly sorrow produced in you! Such earnestness, such concern to clear yourselves, such indignation, such alarm, such longing to see me, such zeal, and such a readiness to punish wrong. You showed that you have done everything necessary to make things right.*  
**2 Corinthians 7:11 (NLT)**

##### 2. Accept the responsibility that was given to us by God!

*Each person must be responsible for himself.*  
**Galatians 6:5 (NCV)**

- **Stop having a pity party about your life.**

*When the going gets rough, take it on the chin with the rest of us, the way Jesus did. A soldier on duty doesn't get caught up in making deals at the marketplace. He concentrates on carrying out orders. An athlete who refuses to play by the rules will never get anywhere. It's the diligent farmer who gets the produce. Think it over. God will make it all plain.*  
**2 Timothy 2:3-7 (MSG)**

- **Start seeing God's blessings in a brand-new light.**

- **Blessings are not simply receiving things, blessings also means we are given responsibilities.**

*The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.*

**1 Corinthians 3:8-9 (NLT)**

*So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.*

**1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT)**