

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)

I. Compromise

II. Apathy

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

Cycle of Apathy:

- Reckless
- Rebellion
- Apathy
- Ruin
- Repentance

How do we overcome an apathetic attitude?

1. We repent, we change the way we think and act.
2. We accept the responsibility that was given to us by God.
 - Stop having a pity party about your life.
 - See God's blessings in a brand-new light.
3. Stay planted in an abiding relationship with Christ.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. John 15:7-8 (NKJV)

Two Levels of Abiding:

- Abiding in obedience to His word.

Remember what Christ taught, and let his words enrich your lives and make you wise; teach them to each other and sing them out in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing to the Lord with thankful hearts.

Colossians 3:16 (TLB)

- Abiding in the reality of His presence.

After they had prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke God's word without fear.

Acts 4:31 (NCV)

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. 2 Timothy 4:1-2 (NLT)

The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and all his household. Now it was told King David, saying, "The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. Then David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. Now as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. So they brought the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house. Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" So David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the Lord. And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor." Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death. 2 Samuel 6:11-23 (NKJV)

4. Keeping the main thing the main thing.

As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.
2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NLT)

To keep the main thing the main thing we must understand what Paul understood:

- **Why** he did what he did – *V6 As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God.*
- **How** he was able to do it – *V7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.*
- **What** was at stake - *V8a And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return.*
- **Who** would be included – *V8b And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.*

*Whom have I in heaven but you? **I desire you more than anything on earth.** My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever. Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you. But as for me, **how good it is to be near God!** I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.*
Psalms 73:25-28 (NLT)