

You Can

Part 4: You Can Independently Grow

Hebrews 5:11-14 and 6:11-12

YT: if it's boring, you're doing it wrong

**WE:** Need to ask you a question... it's ok it's just you and me (unless with group)

Whether JF or not... have you ever found Christianity to be boring? I know you're very polite but just be honest for a second.

**Christianity often seems like an exercise in tolerating boredom.**

Christianity often as exciting as freshman english class. (Sorry teachers)



- Sit quietly through this service
  - Where, quite literally, a guy reads his weekly book report to you.
- And then there's the homework: Read this book, and pray.
  - We rarely do since there aren't any grades...
  - Sure there are a few who do it... but they are the really serious nerdy ones, right?
  - And you've tried it but man it gets pretty slow moving and how are you supposed to remember all the stuff?

So weird b/c... **the life Jesus offers is an adventure of growing more and more into who Jesus made us to be.**

When we read about Jesus... his life, and the life of his followers, were anything but boring.

We see Jesus' love changing people's lives. And then we see his growing/maturing/changing followers transforming the world by loving like him.

Bringing the Kingdom of God bursting into their world then and there.

Why has this movement turned into simply listening to the same things over and over hoping for some inner spiritual transformation?

For some reason we think that doing enough passive watching/listening to someone else tell us about the life Jesus offers... almost spoon-feeding us stories of what The Life is supposed to look like... is enough to somehow grow us and give us the "spiritual life" we are looking for.

BUT I have good news for you... It doesn't have to be this way- **Following Jesus isn't just something we learn, it's something we practice.**

**Not JF-** might discover why you are frustrated with Xians in your life. BUT ALSO Why you might want to give xianity another chance.

**GOD:** Problem not new... In one of the deepest teachings in the Christian scriptures... we find the same thinking pop up.

Hebrews- unknown author. Written mid 60's AD.

Jesus is greater than Abraham and Moses. (Huge deal btw) What that means... What faith is, etc.

In the middle of some pretty heady stuff, Jesus eternal High Priest in order of Melchizedek, the writer stops and says...

**Heb. 5:11**- OUCH!

Dull and don't seem to listen (most freshman english students)...

Other Translations- "No longer try to understand / dull of hearing" / it's difficult to explain since you have become too lazy to understand."

But that's not you right? You're open minded and totally willing to listen and be corrected and changed, right?

You don't have any preconceived ideas or thoughts on what a Xian/church SHOULD be/do...

When the biblical writings or someone like me say something that makes you do some thinking you don't try to explain/excuse it away or get angry... You soul search and see if you might need adjusting somewhere, right?

You don't care if it's uncomfortable, you try to apply Jesus' teachings even if it looks different or costs you something, right?

Right. So let's just move on...

But really fast... **We are all willing to change until we are challenged to actually change.**

Anyway moving on...

## V. 12

So these people have been following Jesus for a while... But they need to be taught the basics over and over again.

They are probably complaining... "Ugh! We know this stuff. I want something deeper. I want some meat. Tell me about the end times, and angels v. demons, and stuff already! This is getting boring, the same stuff over and over."

Doesn't sound familiar does it?

But the writer says, though they should be able to get the deeper stuff they aren't ready... why not?

## V. 13

They haven't grown, they haven't matured... what's the author's proof?

They don't know HOW TO DO right... "Unskilled in the word of righteousness."

**Maturity isn't what we know. It's what we do with what we know.**

When I hear, not from any one watching of course, "I want some deep teaching!" I think... "Cool. But where's the deep following?"

We can know everything about a subject...

We can know everything about how engines work, what types of tools there are and what they do.

We can learn German to better understand German engineering manuals...

But if we never actually fix an engine... we're not a mechanic.... We're just a person who likes to read about engines.

We can know everything about the biblical writings, we can know all of church history, we can learn Greek to read the writings in original language... But if we never apply what they say... are we actually following Jesus or just learning about a religion?

But you already know that, right?

We'll just look a little more...

## V. 14

"Through training"- ongoing.

Something else I know you know... **Growth requires exercise.**

We have to use what we know in order to become something more.

Knowing and doing are often worlds apart.

See it's no wonder we think Christianity is boring, reading Christian scripture is boring... we don't actually use them.

And therefore see no change or growth or point!

**Example:** Me college Ground School course to satisfy science credit

Kids in school- how are we going to use this? Adverbs/adjectives? C'mon!  
Otherwise it's a waste of time.

**If we read the biblical writings and don't apply them we're wasting our time.**

And then start thinking it's not for us...

We learn and learn but don't apply.

The authors teach us about Jesus. They show us examples of what it looks like to live and love like Jesus... but instead of using that information to inform our lives and make changes... we are content, though bored, to just listen to and read the same things over and over b/c it's safe and comfortable.

We can say, "Yeah I agree with that... or AMEN"... but stay in the same ineffective patterns and comfort.

**We want safety and comfort over growth and purpose.**

So what do we do? How do we apply them?

Skip to **6:11-12**

**The better you know Jesus the better you know what love looks like.**

The point of studying the BW's is to learn what love looks like in our daily lives here and now.

Absolutely read the biblical writings... with a huge focus on the Xian ones/NT.

It's good to know the stuff, it's necessary... But don't just learn to learn...

Read to learn how to apply. And then Apply it!!

Always learn more by doing... and that's when the fun begins.

Difference between ground school to satisfy science credit and learning to fly a rescue helicopter to save lives.

This is what we at CCC call **Independently Growing**

See Confidently Trusting allows us to Authentically Connect. Authentically Connecting allows us to practice what we are learning from Independently Growing. The more we Independently Grow the more Confidently we Trust.

Independent doesn't alone.

- Means taking responsibility for your growth.
- Independent like a married couple w/ a family.
- Independent like the new 13 states.
- Independent like a kid who can feed themselves at the family dinner table.
- We help our kids mature so they can be contributors to the community and help others mature.
- Both/And

**Independently growing means... We take responsibility for our maturity and then apply it with each other.**

- How it works: Read **Ephesians 4:11-16**

**YOU:**

**Evaluate:** Am I actively and purposely discovering more about Jesus and applying it to my life?

**Discover:** **1 John 3:18** (once a day) then Matthew 5:21-7:27 (2 or 3 sections a day)

- Watch Bible series for help in reading.
- Resources on alliance page.

**Apply:** Apply what you're learning about Jesus' love to your actual life.

- Not to earn God's approval or be good Xian.
- But to be who you are. Who you say you are.

**PRAY-** Ask, "Jesus what do you want me to do with what I just heard?"

- Might mean making some uncomfortable but important changes
- Might mean making some drastic priority changes.

Might not happen overnight... just like exercise...

**Maturity and growing is a process. We all have our own pace.**

**Repeat:** CG or Alliance opportunity to continue practicing.

**WE:** Look, Jesus didn't come to give us boring lives.

The true story of Jesus isn't about being bored and good until we die and are bored and good in heaven.

The true story of Jesus is that God came and died in order to give us a new, full, life... a life that is so daring, different, even risky that we have no choice but to rely on him to get through it... and then watching him show up as we do.

**If not JF-** this is what you are invited to... Learn who Jesus is... what true love really looks like.

You can Independently Grow and become who you were always created to be

**JF-** The HS of God is just waiting to burst out and love people through you... Put what you KNOW into action... get in the action!

What does Jesus want you to DO with what you've just heard?

The world doesn't need more Xians educated in the bible.

**The world is begging Jesus Followers to apply what they already know about Jesus' love**

For centuries this type of following has changed the world... you are invited to be a part of the story.

Whether you passed freshman English or not.

You can independently grow.

### Questions

1. How is God working in your life & world this week?
2. What stood out to, bothered, inspired, or irritated you in this week's message?
3. What experiences/feelings have you had with church before? How do you think Crosscreek's version of Independently Growing compares to those experiences/feelings?
4. Look at Jesus' description of life in the Kingdom of God in Matthew 5-7. In which area(s) do you feel you could use some more "Independent Growth." What are some steps you can take to grow in this area and how can your group support/pray for you in this?

### Summary:

One of the first words that usually comes to mind when we hear "Christianity" or "church" is boredom. That's understandable, but it wasn't always this way. What happened? Can you really experience the excitement and adventure the first Jesus Followers experienced? You can.

### Episode Breakdown:

00:45 We greet thee

02:12 Question: Why does it seem so boring?

04:15 It's not a new problem...

08:20 What good is just knowing?

11:30 Wasting our time...

13:30 The actual point

16:15 So let's get started...

18:53 Adventure time

20:50 Interpretive Dances & Invitations

24:20 Jon's warm up BTS and a throwback



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#### SHOW NOTES:

- ▶ Notes & Questions: [https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/media/2021-10-10\\_cg.pdf](https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/media/2021-10-10_cg.pdf)
- ▶ Transcript: <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/media/2021-10-10.pdf>
- ▶ Alliance Resources: <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/alliances>

#### ▶ Upcoming #SalemOregon On-Site Gatherings

October 10 & 24th, 4:30pm at our new location! <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/gathering/> for more info.

#### ▶ #forSalem October Opportunity: BOO YOUR NEIGHBOR

1. Buy or make treats for a neighbor.
2. Secretly leave the treats & the "We've Been Boo'd!" sign on their doorstep.

Download the PDF: <https://yourcrosscreek.com/boo>

We will have BOO Oreos for you to give to your neighbors at our October 10th gathering!

#### ▶ Suggested Bible Readings:

Matthew 5-7

Ephesians 4:11-16

James 2:14-26

#### ▶ Music we listened to making this episode:

Beethoven- Symphony No. 9 in D minor: Ode to Joy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlSR8Wlmpac>

Foo Fighters- This is a Call <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imxAeQZjBeI>

Phil Wickham- Your Love Awakens Me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQyXsJMkUPg>

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