

Are You Bored with God?

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John 10:10 (NKJV) “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

People today are bored. Children are bored around the house. Husbands and wives are bored in their marriages. Parents and children are bored with their families. Workers are bored with their jobs. Students are bored with their school work. Church members are bored with their churches. Teenagers are bored with their daily lives. Most are bored with themselves. We are a nation of bored people; we have many opportunities but very little interest. Are you bored?

What is boredom? We all know what bored feels like but we don't always know how to define it. According to Webster's Dictionary, boredom is “the state of being weary and restless through lack of interest”. E. Standley Jones said that boredom is “the result of the sense of futile living.”¹ He went on to say, “Boredom slows down the machinery of life; interest makes it run again.”²

The Christian life should be anything but boring. Jesus Christ came that we might have life, and life more abundantly. Are you experiencing the life—the abundant life—that Jesus came to give you? Is your life filled with the joy of the Lord or with the junk of this world? Sadly, many who claim to know the Lord are the most miserable people in the world. Many Christians are bored with the Christian life—and it shows!

Friend, based upon the words of Jesus, this ought not to be so! Jesus did not come that you might have a *boring* life; Jesus came that you might have *abundant* life! Christians ought to be the most fulfilled, joyful, blessed, and faith-filled people on earth! Unfortunately, the attendance at most churches on Sunday morning reflect a people who are bored with God. Although some say they are bored with church, others are not. Therefore the source of boredom goes much deeper.

Are you bored with God? Have you grown indifferent to the One who died for you? Have you become unthankful to the One who came to save your soul from hell? Have you lost interest in the things of God? Is Jesus Christ no longer your first love? Have you become resentful of His Lordship? Have you kicked against His invitation to give and to serve? Are you more absorbed in earthly entertainment than eternal endeavors? Has spending time alone with God become a begrudging duty rather than a blessed devotion? Has gathering with the church on Sunday and Wednesday become a chore rather than a celebration? Are you experiencing a boring life or abundant life? These are all important questions to consider!

There are five characteristics of bored Christians that are important to highlight. First, bored Christians are spiritual immature. Their immaturity makes them unrealistic in their expectations. They expect to be entertained at all times. Immature Christians are undisciplined. They don't know how to make the most of opportunities. Immature Christians are irresponsible. They are unfaithful in what God requires. They want the benefits of Christ but shirk any responsibility to Christ. Immature Christians are selfish. They want what they want when they want it the way they want it or else they will sit around do nothing and say, “I am bored!” Their boredom is the result of their own immaturity. Is your boredom the result of spiritual immaturity?

¹ E. Standley Jones, *The Way* (New York, NY: Abingdon Press, 1946), p. 162

² E. Standley Jones, *The Way* (New York, NY: Abingdon Press, 1946), p. 162

Second, bored Christians have become too familiar with the holy. They take God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit for granted. They do not respect what is holy or Who is holy. They do not appreciate the work of Christ on the Cross. They do not appreciate the gifts God has given to them for His service. They do not treasure the people God has put in their lives. Is your boredom the result of becoming too familiar with the holiness, majesty, work, and glory of God?

Third, bored Christians lack spiritual vision. They have lost interest because they have lost vision. Bored Christians do not see God's purpose in their life (they feel cheated, overlooked, left out). They cannot see God's purpose in where they are and what He allows. They fail to see the value of their past and present in preparing them for their future. Where are you going? What you will see tomorrow will depend upon what you see today! Is your boredom caused by a lack of vision?

Fourth, bored Christians have a false perspective on what God is doing around them. Bored Christians see God in the big things but fail to see Him at work in the little things. When big things aren't happening, they get bored. Bored Christians despise the discipline of routine and the restrictions of relationship. Bored Christians seek to spice up their life with excitement, action, activity, entertainment! They want zing, pop, boom, and bam! They want to be thrilled and entertained! They demand to see supernatural fireworks! Bored Christians crave to feel the ooh, aww, and wow! With this kind of false perspective on the Christian life, it is little wonder that people claim to be bored with God. Is your boredom with God the result of failing to see God working around you in the little things?

Fifth, bored Christians have a sense of entitlement. Bored Christians feel it is everyone else's fault that they are bored. Bored Christians expect a payoff today on a Christian experience in which they have made no spiritual investment. For instance bored Christians expect to be served rather than serve. They expect trust without testing, position without proving, promotion without production, reward without results, blessing without being a blessing, favor without faithfulness, honor without showing honor, power without purpose, anointing without accountability, satisfaction without self-control, happiness without holiness, success without suffering, riches without responsibility, prosperity without planning, getting without giving, help without helping, growth without growing, and Christ without the cross. Is your boredom the result of a sense of entitlement?

Jesus Christ came to give life and life more abundantly. It is evident that boredom is not the model of the abundant life that Christ intended! In contrast to bored Christians, there are also five characteristics of abundant life Christians. First, abundant life Christians are deliberate in their pursuit of spiritual maturity. They are disciplined in devotion, faithful in duty, and selfless in service. Are you deliberate in your pursuit of spiritual maturity?

Second, abundant life Christians have a deep respect for the holy. They fear God who is holy and as a result they treat the things of God and the work of God as holy. They desire to be holy as God is holy. Do you possess a deep respect for the holy?

Third, abundant life Christians see God in everything. They see God in His creation. They see Him in the morning sunrise and in the evening sunset. They see Him in the sun shining during the day and the stars shining at night. They see Him in the seasons of the years and in the years of life, They see Him in the flowers, trees, animals, and birds or in the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures. They see God in the big things. They see Him in the birth of a baby, in the marriage of a son or daughter, in the saving of a soul, in the healing of a body, in the provision of a need, in the passing of a loved one, in the miraculous interventions, in the events of history, and in the daily news. They also see God in the small things. Zechariah 4:10 (NKJV) declares, "*For who has despised the day of small things?*" They see Him in the little details of life, in the timing of a visit, in a truth gleaned from Scripture, in direction gained through prayer, in a raise at work, in the people we meet along the way. They see God in the routine things. They see Him in the duties of a job, in the mundane responsibilities of the day, in the cleaning of a room, in the planting of a garden, in buying groceries, in the cooking a meal,

in a family meal around the table, in the care of a child, in the playtime with a toddler, in the washing of clothes, in the mowing of a yard, in the maintenance of a house, in the washing of a car, in the writing of a card, and in the receiving of a phone call. Do you see God at work in every detail of your life?

Fourth, abundant life Christians practice the Presence of God. They practice a daily and moment by moment relationship with God. They understand that God is everywhere at all times. They easily relate to the hymn "Every day with Jesus" that says:

Everyday with Jesus
Is sweeter than the day before
Every day with Jesus
I love Him more and more
Jesus saves and keeps me
And He's the one I'm living for
Everyday with Jesus
Is sweeter than the day before

Recently I believe the Lord gave me a poem that expresses our need to practice the presence of God. It is entitled "God is Present Everywhere"³

God is Present Everywhere

God is present everywhere
God is present in every place
God is present on the earth
God is present in outer space

God is present where you work
God is present in where you learn
God is present when you run away
God is present at every turn

God is present in every second
God is present in every day
God is present in every season
God is present to show the way

God is present in your past
God is present here today
God is present in your tomorrow
God is always here to stay

God is present when you feel Him close
God is present when you don't
God is present when you think He will
God is present when you think He won't

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God is present in the triumphs
God is present in the pain
God is present in the sunshine
God is present in the rain

God is present at every birth
God is present at every grave
God is present when we're fearful
God is present when we're brave
God is present in our questions
God is present in our doubt
God is present when we cannot see Him
Everywhere He's all about

God is present when we're feeling up
God is present when we're feeling low
God is present when we need Him most
God is present when we think we don't

God is present when there's peace
God is present when there's pain
God is present when things are perfect
God is present when things are stained

God was present at the Cross
When darkness filled the sky
God was present in Jesus' suffering
God was present when He died

God was present when they laid Him
In the dark and lonely tomb
God was present when the angels sang
And broke the silence and the gloom

God was present when He rose again
When He came forth from the dead
God was present when the angel spoke
"He is risen as He said"

God was present when they saw Him
Faith restored and sin atoned
God was present when He ascended
And took His place upon the throne

God is present in the end of time
When Christ and angels will fill the sky
God will comfort us with His presence
And wipe tears from every eye

God is present everywhere
He is even in this place
God is present here to save you
By the power of His grace

God is present, now believe Him
His promises are ever true
God is present, now receive Him
Let Him live inside of you

Fifth, abundant life Christians are thankful. They possess an attitude of gratitude. There is no sense of entitlement with God. They know they deserve nothing. They think in terms of privilege rather than rights. They consider every day as a gift from God. Every blessing is seen as a demonstration of His grace. Do you possess an attitude of gratitude to God?

Are you bored with God? Trade in a boring life for the abundant life Christ came to give you. Return to your first love—Jesus Christ. When you do you will find that every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before!

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