



How to Revive Your Desire for God

God Is Boring

Why Does God Sometimes Still Feel Boring?

Philippians 3:7-15

Philippians 3:7-15

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— **10** that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. **13** Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **15** Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

God can sometimes still feel boring because

We live for the past.

- “**7** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ” (vv. 7–8).
- Paul forgets his past.
 - “4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless” (Philippians 3:4–6).
- We want to live for our past because often it's so formative
 - “This is a time of much longing and searching: searching for an identity, searching for acceptance, searching for a circle of friends, searching for intimacy, searching for someone to marry, searching for a vocation, searching for a career, searching for the right place to live, searching for financial security, and searching for someone to give us substance and meaning—in a word, searching for a home” (Ronald Rolheiser, *Sacred Fire*, 16).
- We can live for our past whether it's good or bad, whether we're proud or ashamed.
- Forget your past.

We waste the present.

- “in order that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— **10** that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead” (vv. 8b–11).
- Paul invested his present.
 - The most important thing to Paul was knowing Christ!
 - We know Christ through his work—Death & Resurrection
 - “5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:5–11).
 - For Paul this is experiential knowledge

- Paul ordered his life such a way to seek the benefit of others in self-emptying and obedience to God.
- “Mature discipleship begins, whether we are explicitly conscious of this or not, when we begin living more for others than for ourselves” (Ronald Rolheiser, *Sacred Fire*, 18).
- “Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us” (Philippians 3:17).
- Invest your present.

We forget the future.

- “**12** Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. **13** Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **15** Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you” (vv. 12–15).
- Paul remembered his future.
 - Paul had a clear goal and kept that goal in front of him
 - Paul understood that reaching his goal was in the future
 - “Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last” (C. T. Studd).
- Remember your future.

God can sometimes still feel boring because we live for the past, waste the present, and forget the future.

- Forget your past.
- Invest your present.
- Remember your future.