

# Are You Tired Of God?

**Introduction.** All of us who have driven several years have narrowly avoided tragedy at least once. You may have been changing lanes on a busy interstate and you failed to see the car in your blind spot. Then came a loud horn followed by screeching brakes. Inches separated a safe return home from being a statistic. This terrifying moment reminds us of a critical reality — failure to check a blind spot can be tragic.

Blind spots are not relegated to cars. They occur in relationships, organizations, jobs, etc. Blind spots are everywhere. The church is not immune to blind spots either. And maybe the greatest blind spot today is the pervasive temptation of apathy. Apathy certainly existed in the first century because Jesus taught that when God prepared a wedding and called the guests, they were apathetic and went their separate ways (Matthew 22:5). The devil is the source of apathy as seen in the parable of the sower. The seed sown by the way side was taken out of their hearts by the devil (Luke 8:12).

Apathy pulls us away from God, and ultimately it prevents us from seeing the fullness of God in this life and possibly the next. As we look to a new year, I want to look at some signs that indicate you are growing indifferent and tired of God.

## ***I. Your Passion For God Is Stagnant***

- A. If you are not uncomfortable, then you are probably stuck at a level you have accepted over the years.
  - 1. You should welcome sermons that push and challenge you to explore deeper levels of God's nature and character.
  - 2. You should constantly push to know and understand more of God (James 4:8). Every part of your life should awaken you to God's infinite grace and immeasurable power (Romans 11:33).
- B. God molding you into His image is a lifelong process (Romans 8:29; 2 Peter 1:4). God is infinite, and stretching towards an infinite God requires growing pains (2 Peter 3:18). Lethargic Christians do not like pain. But if the goal is to draw closer to God, you must live with a healthy discomfort (1 Corinthians 4:21).

## ***II. You Are A Referee Not A Player***

- A. When apathy trumps Christ, cynicism and judgmentalism are soon to follow. Lethargic Christians move from a player on the field to a referee on the sidelines.
  - 1. Players are too busy to investigate holding or lining up illegally. But referees? This is their only purpose. Referees watch every player on every play. And when someone commits a penalty, a flag is thrown.
  - 2. I know we have to rebuke sin for this is commanded of us (2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:13; 2:15). But this is very different than what Christians sometimes have in mind: "Foul! She said something in Bible class I don't agree with." "Foul! I didn't like what the preacher said today."
- B. Active, working Christians do not have time for this nonsense. They are serving and building the kingdom, not being hyper-critical and tearing each other down unnecessarily (1 Corinthians 3:3; Galatians 5:15, 26; James 3:14-18). Instead of looking for and almost glorying in another's faults, help them grow stronger.

### **III. You Talk Like An Atheist**

- A. When God is overshadowed by apathy, He rarely comes out of your mouth during conversation. How often does God cross your mind in a day? At work, do you look for opportunities to inject God's name into conversations? At school, does God shape your encounters with friends and teachers? Are you passionate and zealous about God (2 Corinthians 7:11; 9:2; Titus 2:14)?
- B. Whatever you are passionate about you will talk about. When you met your spouse, you called all your friends and even called people you did not know. You wanted the world to know this beautiful, amazing person actually liked you.
- C. What about God? Would any of your co-workers or classmates know you are a Christian (1 Kings 18:21; Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 2:15)? When indifference drives the train, God takes a back seat.

### **IV. You Begin To Compromise Your Morals**

- A. Judges 2:12 demonstrates that when apathy sets in, morals are compromised. The Israelites entered Canaan, conquered the nations in their path, settled into their new home, and started serving other gods.
- B. Does anyone else find this baffling? How could they desert God so easily? The answer is apathy. The Israelites needed God to conquer the nations. They could not do it without Him. Once the conquering was over, the need for God dissipated. And when the need for God subsides, morals follow closely behind.
- C. Think about your life. Are you lowering the moral bar? Do you value holiness (Romans 6:19; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 1:4; 4:24; 1 Thessalonians 3:13)? A heart desperate for God is a heart dedicated to thinking and acting in ways that reveal your love for Him and your hatred of the devil. Aaron and his sons had to be consecrated before they could serve as priests (Exodus 28:41). How are you doing as one of God's priests (1 Peter 2:9-12)?

### **V. You View The Gospel As A List Of "Don'ts"**

- A. You can do nothing wrong and still do nothing right. Apathy-driven Christians have a laundry list of "don'ts." They believe in righteousness by subtraction. So, you will not catch them drinking or cursing — at least not in public.
- B. But righteousness by subtraction is one-sided righteousness. It is half truth. The whole truth is your heart should grieve as much when you fail to live out the "dos" as it does when you fail to refrain from the "don'ts." But lukewarm Christians do not like the "dos." It involves them getting out of their comfort zone.
- C. Are you minimizing righteousness to a list of "don'ts" (Romans 1:28-32; 1 Timothy 1:9-10)? Does your heart break for those who do not know Christ (Matthew 9:36-38; John 4:34-35)? Do you grieve when you pass over an opportunity to help the cause of the poor and oppressed (James 1:27; 1 John 3:17-18)? Are you saddened when you miss the chance to encourage and uplift (Proverbs 27:9; Acts 28:15)? If not, maybe it is time to ask yourself if you are indifferent to Christ.

## ***VI. Every Person In Your Circle Looks And Acts Like You***

- A. I once read that Christians are like manure: spread them out and they help everything grow better. Keep them in one big pile and they stink horribly.
- B. I have known of people who will barely even talk to someone who is of a different race or commits a “heinous” sin such as homosexuality. When we perceive the “bad” sins that people commit, our comfort is violated and the walls come up. The devil convinces us that instead of a message for the world, the gospel is a message for “your people” (cp. Romans 10:12; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11).
- C. When indifference is more important than Christ, churches can become barricaded forts on the outside and country clubs on the inside. The very ones we should be teaching for Christ are the ones not allowed to enter (Mark 2:15-17; Luke 6:32-36; 15:1-7).

**Conclusion.** In March 2007 in southern Russia, 62 people were killed by a fire that quickly blazed through a nursing home. The greatest tragedy was that the deaths could have been prevented. Authorities say a night watchman ignored two fire alarms. When the third alarm sounded and the watchman saw flames, he finally took the necessary action to evacuate residents. Even then, other staffers were absent from their posts, making the escape effort nearly impossible in some cases. By the time fire and rescue workers arrived, many residents had already died from smoke inhalation.

If you are looking toward this new year with indifference, apathy, or lethargy toward God, the cure, as always, is repentance (Revelation 3:15-19). If you need to confess your falling away from God, or if you would like to begin a zealous new life serving God and laying up for yourself treasure in Heaven, then please come forward and tell us so as we sing our invitation song.