



## The Uncomfortable Christian Life

Text: 2 Cor 12:9

Young Adults Pastor Kyle Pettit

1. How would you describe your life right now? Comfortable or uncomfortable? Why?
2. Luke 5:1-11.
  - a. Kyle mentioned that God will often frustrate our plans to get our attention and realize our need for him. How is this what Jesus did with Peter?
  - b. What was confusing to Peter about Jesus' command to put out the nets?
  - c. In what ways, specifically, was Jesus calling Peter away from a life of comfort?
  - d. Why do you think Peter obeyed even though Jesus was calling him to an uncomfortable life?
3. Think of a season in your life that illustrates many of the principles from Kyle's message.
  - a. When was a time that God frustrated your plans only to reveal that he had something better?
  - b. When was a time that God forced you into a place where you had no other choice but to depend on him? How did you experience the truth that when we are made weak, we are made strong?
4. What are specific practices that fuel your love for God, and how can you start to build more of that into your daily and weekly rhythms of life?
5. When life gets challenging, where do you run first? What do you look to for comfort? (Not what should you, but what do you instinctively do?) How can we train ourselves to look to Jesus in the trials?

Challenge: Where might God be calling you out of your place of comfort?

Prayer: Father God, we confess that we love and crave comfort. God help us to be faithful even when you call us to hard and uncomfortable places. Help us to be obedient to choose you and what you have for us even when it's hard. You are strong when we are weak. We are weak God and we need you. Lord, help us be disciplined in the word of God to fan the flames of our love for you. Let our love be an action. Let us love hard people in hard places to the point that it's uncomfortable for your glory God. Thank you for sending Jesus from the ultimate place of comfort to die on the cross for us. Thank you for the love, mercy, and grace poured out for us so that we might have the Holy Spirit living in us, empowering us to be

faithful, obedient, and loving. Push us to the uncomfortable God that we may have and receive more of you. Amen.

# STUDY DEEPER

## THE IDOL OF COMFORT

RECAP: Idolatry is rampant in our hearts today whether we realize it or not. At the end of the day, idolatry is at the root of all our sin. The Bible defines idolatry as putting something that is created in a higher place of worth than the only One who is not created: God. When analyzing our sin, we come to the conclusion that there are four root idols:

POWER, CONTROL, COMFORT, AND APPROVAL.

Do any of us find joy when we are hungry? How about when we are forced to take a cold shower or when it is 100 degrees outside and the AC is broken? We might be able to persevere through it, but do we do so joyfully? Probably not. This could be because we struggle with the Idol of Comfort.

DEFINITION: I am not content unless I have free access to a particular pleasure in my life.

Is your motivation to study, work hard, get a good job or get married all so you can secure an easy life in the future? Do you have a tendency to avoid conflict or difficulties in life? When you are stressed out or depressed do you turn to food, another person, Netflix, sex, or alcohol instead of relying on God?

For me personally, in times of stress, the order is first food, then another person, and if I remember I pray for God's guidance. Clearly, I struggle with an Idol of Comfort.

We live in a #blessed society.

We can contact others instantaneously through text, binge eat Chick-Fil-A in a drive-thru, and distract ourselves from our struggles by escaping into a fantasy world through Netflix.

The devil has made running to the things of this world for comfort so easy that we forget that running to God is e v e n e a s i e r .

The devil also spreads the lie that we deserve to be comfortable and that we can only be happy if we have security and free access to the pleasures of this world. This is why businesses like Netflix and Amazon thrive, because they have the ability to instantaneously meet our desires. This is also why the pornography and human trafficking industries continue to flourish, because humans have an insatiable desire to feel good about ourselves and put our wants above others.

The Bible refutes these lies. God never promises us an easy or comfortable life, so why does so much of our time and effort go towards achieving that?

As I repent of my Idol of Comfort I pray that when faced with difficult obstacles I don't just avoid them, but instead rely on the Savior who has overcome every difficulty in life. I pray that when I am struggling, I don't find comfort in food or affirmation from other people, but instead, in the certain promises of God the Father.

True repentance from an Idol of Comfort is knowing that you will still be happy even if you have almost no money, work your fingers to the bone every day, and have no friends, because you know that Jesus is better than the most comfortable life this world can promise us. True repentance is when you look at the money and see it not as a tool to satisfy your needs, but instead, as a tool to further the Kingdom of God. Repentance from a Comfort Idol is valuing your girlfriend/boyfriend's holiness and purity over your physical desires.

You know the Spirit is at work in your heart when you believe that the highest and ultimate pleasure in life is knowing Jesus Christ.

Until you truly believe this, you will continue to run after the comforts of this world and fall into sin day after day. Let Psalm 16:11 be your mantra when you know you are tempted to run to sex, alcohol, food, relationships, or TV instead of the God of Comfort.

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore,” | Psalms 16:11

<https://comeawake.org/2017/06/01/the-idol-of-comfort/>