



Life Is Complicated. We Can Help.

Counterintuitive

#nplifeiscomplicated

Week 21

January 24, 2021

Bottom Line: We don't rise to the level of our expectations; we fall to the level of our training.

Icebreaker: What in your life have you trained to be able to do or accomplish? Are you learning to do anything right now? What is something you would love to do that requires training you have not yet obtained?

Key Verse: "...train yourself to be godly." 1 Timothy 4:7 NLT

We often tend to believe that something that feels "natural," "normal," or "familiar" is the correct option to choose. Any other option feels uncomfortable and is often referred to as "counterintuitive," meaning that our intuition tells us that it is wrong. Despite the tendency to favor our "intuition," there are times when being counterintuitive is more likely to produce the outcome we desire. Jesus was counterintuitive in His teachings. The famous teachings from the Sermon on the Mount are among the most well-known examples of His backward and upside-down, counterintuitive kingdom. God's plan for His church was such power and strength that "the gates of hell would not be able to stand against it," and we would be the hope of the world. That clearly is not the condition of the church today. The solution is counterintuitive. When Jesus steps in, He always throws our intuitive solutions out the window. He does that so it will become obvious that *only* God could do what happened. The reason God saved us was not to take us to heaven—He saved us to bear His image and to live and work as His agents during our time on earth. The church is doing poorly because so few have caught that vision. We are fans instead of followers. Our team is struggling because of TRUST issues. We believe in God, as in we truly believe that Jesus is the Savior, but we don't have true faith and trust. We don't actually trust Him with the nitty-gritty issues of life. We have DYSFUNCTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS. The expectations are high, but the work level is low. Spiritual growth is not automatic—it requires discipline. You can be saved and have all the expectations of the things of God, but you never get there. You don't have the spiritual work ethic to train. We aren't told to try to be godly, or even to simply pray to be godly. We are to train. The church is also struggling because of SELFISHNESS. You can trace almost all this world's problems back to selfishness. Yet selfishness is the most intuitive thing you can have. Jesus is always looking for the counterintuitive nature of selflessness. If you want to make a difference, start with how you can serve someone. That is training in godliness. Jesus is calling us to actually follow Him; to get over our heads in being the church that hell cannot overcome. We have our salvation today because the disciples answered the call to follow and dropped their nets. What do you need to drop today?

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

What's a counterintuitive teaching of Jesus that comes to mind? What makes it so?

There is no power of darkness that can stop the advancing Church that Jesus builds. Reflect on that statement and discuss in the light of today.

When Jesus steps in, however, He throws all intuition out the window. Why does He do this? So that when we look back, we can only come to one conclusion: Only God could've done this.... When has God done this in your experience?

Going to heaven is an outcome of salvation, but it is not the purpose. You are saved for the purpose of living and working in a way that displays who God is to a watching world. How might it change lives if people really understood this? Is it clearly your own focus in following Jesus?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Where do you find a tendency in your life to not deeply trust God?

Where in your life do you find a "dysfunctional environment"—your expectations are high, but your work and effort are low?

Growth in the human soul requires a commitment to grow. A person must want to grow, decide to grow, and make an effort to grow. Spiritual growth begins with a decision. It doesn't have to be a complex decision, but it does have to be sincere. Where are you in this process? Is there any place you haven't decided to grow yet?

Letting go of selfishness and training to serve may be the most difficult thing you've ever done. But it will be the most beneficial. Where do you see traces of selfishness in your life?

What net do you need to drop so you can actively follow now?

NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate yourself on selfishness and dysfunctional work environment. Where do you need immediate training?
2. Jesus will accept our simple but sincere desire to begin the adventure of following sincerely. Express it to Him.
3. Ask Jesus where you need to begin a new level of training for godliness.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: We don't rise to the level of our expectations; we fall to the level of our training.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Wednesday: Luke 16:10-12

Thursday: Hebrews 12:11

Friday: Proverbs 15:32

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)