

Chapter 1 : 5 Life Skills That Video Games Can Help You Develop

Life in the Early Church Acts We have been away from our study in Acts for several weeks now, so let's briefly review the second chapter.

Life in the Early Church Acts 2: Pentecost began with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, resulting in the sound of a mighty wind, tongues of fire, and the apostles speaking the praises of God in the native tongues of those present. All this drew a crowd in the temple as Peter stood up to preach. Their speaking in tongues was an evidence of the outpouring of the Spirit of which Joel foretold. Peter went on to suggest exactly what that judgment would entail 2: These Israelites had rejected the One whom God attested to be the Messiah, through miracles and wonders and signs. But God had raised Him from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus should not be regarded as anything new, for David had spoken of this as a prophet. In Psalm 16, he spoke of his hope as being based on the presence of God. As the living God, His flesh would not be allowed to corrupt. Even if He died or was put to death, He would be raised. David was not speaking of himself, for his grave was nearby. He spoke of Jesus, His Son, whose empty tomb was nearby. Not only had Jesus been raised from the grave, He had ascended to the right hand of the Father. God was to put the enemies of His Son under His feet. The next step indicated by Joel 2 and Psalm The facts announced placed the hearers in the awful attitude of the murderers of the Son of God, who was now not only alive again, but seated on the throne of God, with all power in His hands, both on earth and in heaven. The belief of these facts necessarily filled them with the most intense realization of guilt and the most fearful anticipation of punishment. Cut to the heart, they asked Peter and the other apostles what they should do. Peter told them to turn from their sin to God, and as a demonstration of their faith, to be baptized, and thus to be saved from that evil generation and the horrible fate which would someday befall them. Approximately 3, did believe and were baptized: So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls. The implication is that they were added to the Church. Who added them to the Church? Remember that Acts is the record of what Jesus continued to do and teach through His people after His ascension: The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, Acts 1: When Peter finished preaching, 3, people were saved. With no gimmicks, no alter calls, no "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. They were all saved, and they were saved by the hand of God, not the acts of man. The sinner knows five minutes before you finish; hence he digs in and prepares himself for the invitation so that he does not respond. However, if your closing is abrupt, and a lost person does not suspect that you are about finished, you have crept up on him, and he will not have time to prepare himself for the invitation. Many people may be reached using this method. He thinks that we can trick people into salvation. We are to preach the Gospel, but it is God who saves sinners: But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. Three thousand people were converted on the day of Pentecost as they took their places as new members of the emerging Church, the pattern of organization of the believing community began gradually to take shape. Its form was very simple, but its features have remained as characteristics of the body of Christ: The word "devoting" is the Greek word proskartereo. Out of ten uses of the verb and one use of the noun in the New Testament, six are connected with prayer and two with the ministry of the Word. They diligently observed two things: Having responded to Christ, they were eager to learn about Him from the apostles, and to learn more about the significance of His death and resurrection. Additionally, they would seek to gain an understanding of the Christian application of the First Testament, for that was their "Bible. One of the things that must define us as a believing community is we are committed passionately to truth. This makes us counter cultural. It has bought into this ridiculous notion of relativity--which says there is no truth, there are no absolutes; the truth is whatever you need it to be, so create and manipulate your own truth to suit your own means. But we believe in an absolute God; therefore, we believe in absolute truth. It is very important we understand that each of us must be passionately pursuing truth through a study of the Scriptures. The whole issue of truth and knowing truth demands that we engage our minds. Paul put it like this to the Ephesian

believers: But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, Ephesians 4: People are afraid of doctrine. But understanding Christian doctrine is essential to knowing God, delighting in Him, and obeying Him. This passage, like others in Acts This alone provides a solid foundation for healthy spiritual growth. Christians who fail to lay this foundation are vulnerable to spiritual error. The Greek word used here is "koinonia". This is the only time Luke uses it. The word literally means: It means that we share life together, that we share this Spirit and this life in common as the people of God, that we understand we need each other. We begin by having a relationship to the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Then we are immediately brought into relationship with other believers, which is known as the Church. To truly dwell in community means that rather than living in individualism and isolation, we are in this together. The New Testament has no concept of a believer isolated out there all by himself or herself. There are a multitude of areas which we can and must be involved in fellowshiping with one another. These are the so-called "one another" passages of the New Testament. We are to love one another We need each other. It is our partnering together to help each other live out the demands of the Christian life. This fellowship is said to consist of two things: Communion almost always, almost exclusively, rolled out of a common meal together. So in many ways it may be referring to both. One thing worth noting in verse 42 is that Luke uses the definite article, "the breaking of bread. It was "the" breaking of bread. Our Churches are often lecture halls or entertainment centers instead of worship centers. We need to put Christ back into our worship: We know from extra-Biblical writings, such as the writings of Pliny, Justin Martyr, the Didache and other first and second century writings, that the early Church began to meet together on the first day of the week to keep the ordinance, the bread and juice. As Jews they were familiar with daily prayers and would continue to use them, gradually giving them a more Christian slant. In all that they did they remembered God and were faithful in praying, and giving thanks, and rejoicing. The coming together in Jerusalem to worship was to be a sign of the new age: It means that disciples of Christ are to pray often and to pray regularly. Prayer is not to be infrequent, and prayer is not to be hit and miss. Being "devoted to" prayer means that you are not haphazard, and you are not forgetful. It means you take steps to see that it is part of your regular life, the same way eating and sleeping are. Prayer is a life priority. The simplest answer being that the Word of God tells us to pray. Prayer declares our dependence upon God. The more you get praying the better your chances? This is not what prayer is about. They were a praying people because they were desperate, because they were needy. They were dependent upon Christ. We live in a culture of self-sufficiency: But prayer is our recognition that: So the first members of the Church spent their time studying doctrine, fellowshiping, worshipping, and praying together. I think that this should still be what the Church is doing. This is the very first activity of the Church and it should still be the activity of the Church. Notice what else Luke tells us about the Church: And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. It was obvious that a work of God was taking place. The KJV translates this word as "fear.

Checkmate! Play the classic strategic board game. You can challenge the computer, a friend, or join a match against another online player.

Twitter Advertisement Video games can help you succeed at life. I know this because I am an ex-video game addict. However, like most kinds of media, video games can be both good and bad. As one who grew up immersed in gaming culture, I can attest that some areas of my life were negatively influenced by my gaming habits. I can also attest that games have helped shape me into a more productive member of society. Role-playing games with a level-up mechanic often encouraged repetitive monster fights to grow stronger e. Some may pine for the good old days when games like Ultima Online, Everquest, and Dark Age of Camelot dominated the scene, Read More perfected it. Is grinding really a life skill? You bet it is. The ability to endure routine and repetition is one that will come in handy no matter what you pursue. Grinding through work projects. Grinding money for a wedding, a vacation, or a new home. Forward Thinking and Strategic Planning Puzzle and strategy games will never go out of style. Remember the massive buzz over Plants vs. Games come out, generate hype, and are forgotten all in a matter of a couple of days. On consoles, gamers will stick with a game longer, but with Being hooked on catapulting feathered weapons of mass destruction into smug pigs As with all things related to technology, puzzle games have been evolving - and quite rapidly, too. Have you seen the new Alchemy game? Many hours of dedication are required, and if you In the world of games, Valve Corporation has recently grown into one of the largest and most consistent game publishers with the skyrocketing success of their Steam distribution network and game developers with the international Both casual and hardcore gamers love and appreciate the kind of gameplay that stimulates planning and strategy. Can anyone argue against the practicality of planning income vs. Of laying out a realistic five-year plan? Of navigating a fulfilling career path? If I do, what are the potential consequences? Leadership and Socialization Perhaps the most popular gaming stereotype is the player who is asocial, perhaps even antisocial. In fact, gamers are often depicted as basement-dwelling man-children who have no jobs, no responsibilities, and no dignity. Starting with the earliest consoles, before broadband allowed online play to take off, gaming with friends involved a physical gathering in front of a single TV. It could be argued that gaming enables stereotypically introspective individuals to be more social, ultimately improving social skills. In the case of guilds and clans, socialization can evolve into leadership. Synchronizing schedules, mobilizing people towards a goal, inspiring motivation, and resolving interpersonal conflicts are all skills that can be learned from gaming and applied to real life. Brain Age offers plenty of activities that help with mental math, reading speed, and concentration. Flash Focus is similar but emphasizes hand-eye coordination, peripheral vision, and visual acuity. Sudoku is all about logical deduction. Tetris helps develop pattern recognition skills. In fact, there are plenty of mobile games that make you smarter Get Smarter With Android: Read More by exercising memory, matching, and thinking outside the box. The interactivity of games is one way to exercise your mind while having fun. On one level, the artistic directions of many titles have proven that games can literally be art. The graphics alone distinguish them from every other game out there. But on an even deeper level, game designers are really starting to explore and incorporate the emotional elements that exist in other forms of media, the most important element being narrative. Indeed, some of the most groundbreaking and revolutionary titles of the past five years have been the emotionally weighty games Pull Out The Tissues: And when it comes to emotional gaming, there are some seriously impactful scenes that will take your breath away. Read More that jerk at your heartstrings. For a while, video games have had a reputation of being emotionally numbing and brain rotting, but this recent trend towards narrative-centric gaming is now doing what books and movies have been doing for decades: And honestly, this particular life skill may be the most important one on this list. How has gaming better equipped you for life? Do you think there are such benefits to video games or would society be better off without any games at all? Share your thoughts with us in the comments below!

Chapter 3 : 7 Life Skills You Can Learn for Free

The life lessons we can learn from Bake Off You can unsubscribe at any time and we will not pass on your information. Email address: Subscribe to the National Newspaper Of The Year.

If I look back at who I was before I began traveling and compare that to who I am now, I would have to say that travel has made me a better and more well-rounded person. In fact, I think travel makes everybody a more awesome person. We end our travels way better off than when we started. The kind of person people gravitate toward and want to be around. You become like the Dos Equis guy. How and why does travel make you more awesome? Let me count the ways: You either get better at making friends or you end up alone, crying each night into a pillow. You learn to make friends out of strangers and get more comfortable talking to new people. Better at conversation – Travel not only makes you comfortable talking to strangers, it makes you better at it too. After talking to people all the time, the same questions get boring. You start to even bore yourself. Dived the Great Barrier Reef. Wined and dined that beautiful French girl in Paris, navigated unknown cities, and conquered your fear of heights. In short, you did awesome things. How can you not be more confident? How can you not be sure about your abilities? After a while, you learn how to adapt your plans to changing situations. Life throws you curve balls and you hit them out of the park. More adventurous – When you become confident in your ability to do anything, you do anything. Because I wanted to. More easy-going – All those mistakes? They did something else for you, too. They made you more easy-going and relaxed. Sexier – Stress causes aging. Unless you are George Clooney, who definitely got better with age. Smarter – Unless you sit at a resort drowning your brain in frozen drinks, travel will teach you about the world. Less materialistic – On the road, you learn just how little stuff you actually need. As they say, the more you own, the more it owns you. Happier – Travel simply teaches you how to be happy. How can you not be happy about life after all of that? Think about all the famous, successful people in the world. How many of these qualities do those people exhibit? Because being outgoing, funny, social, happy, confident, and smart are all qualities that make people more successful in everyday life. Travel makes people better people. When you learn more about the world and the people in it, push your boundaries, and try new things, you become a more open, outgoing, and awesome person. You can sit at home, wishing you were somewhere exotic, having fun, and doing something cool. Or you can listen to Kid President, stop being boring, and do something awesome: The choice is yours.

Chapter 4 : Photographing Still Life Can Teach You These 3 Things

Acts New Living Translation (NLT) The Believers Form a Community. 42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper []), and to prayer.

Career Key Classic, test takers and group admins Sign In Learn About Yourself You want to choose an occupation that fits your unique qualities -- your abilities, talents, needs, values, and interests -- and the life-style you want to live. Knowing your "unique qualities" is not easy. Learning about yourself is a challenge for everyone. But, the clearer picture you have, the more likely you are to choose a satisfying career. It is important to write your ideas down. You may find this difficult to do, many do. But, it will make a big difference in your self-understanding. Write down your thoughts and feelings as you do the exercises below. Make a folder to keep your notes and writings. Here are eight strategies you will find helpful: Take tests or inventories that measure your abilities, interests, values, and personality. Write out your reactions to the results. Learn about your personality and introversion and extroversion , following our tips for success. Look carefully at your achievements in school or at work to identify your abilities. If you are a student, for example, which subjects have you done well in, or not so well in? If you work, do the same analysis. What does this tell you about your abilities -- mechanical, verbal, numerical, artistic, and people skills? Be careful not to overlook, or leave out, your abilities. Looking over the 17 Foundation Skills will help you avoid doing this. Examine how you use your leisure time -- your hobbies, community projects, activities with social, political, or religious organizations. For each one, write down three headings: Abilities, Interests, and Values. And, under each heading write down your thoughts. Talk with a friend or family member who is a good listener. Talk with a professional counselor; learn about career counseling. Go to Identify Your Skills. There you will learn what the different types of skills are and how to identify those you have. The activities that are described are powerful; they are used by the top consulting firms in the country. You will find them well worth the effort. Write an autobiography and identify the themes that represent who you are. Write a personal mission statement.

Chapter 5 : Acts HCSB - And they devoted themselves to the - Bible Gateway

Acts Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB). 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.

Know your heart score. These measures have one unique thing in common: Start with one or two. This simple, seven step list has been developed to deliver on the hope we all have--to live a long, productive healthy life. When your blood pressure stays within healthy ranges, you reduce the strain on your heart, arteries, and kidneys which keeps you healthier longer. Learn how to manage your blood pressure. When you control your cholesterol, you are giving your arteries their best chance to remain clear of blockages. Learn how to control your cholesterol. Reduce Blood Sugar Most of the food we eat is turned into glucose or blood sugar that our bodies use for energy. Over time, high levels of blood sugar can damage your heart, kidneys, eyes and nerves. Learn how to reduce your blood sugar. Get Active Living an active life is one of the most rewarding gifts you can give yourself and those you love. Simply put, daily physical activity increases your length and quality of life. Eat Better A healthy diet is one of your best weapons for fighting cardiovascular disease. When you eat a heart-healthy diet, you improve your chances for feeling good and staying healthy " for life! Learn how to eat better. Lose Weight When you shed extra fat and unnecessary pounds, you reduce the burden on your heart, lungs, blood vessels and skeleton. You give yourself the gift of active living, you lower your blood pressure and you help yourself feel better, too. Learn how to lose or manage weight. Stop Smoking Cigarette smokers have a higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease. If you smoke, quitting is the best thing you can do for your health. Learn how to stop smoking. Whether you work in healthcare or simply want to share with your community, the following materials and messages will help you spread the word. Together, we can empower millions of others to make a new life resolution and build a healthier, stronger legacy one heart at a time!

Chapter 6 : The life lessons we can learn from the Great British Bake Off

Don't wait until it's too late. Now is the right time to learn how life insurance can help you leave a legacy of love for your family. Life Happens is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping.

You can control your subject, location, lighting, composition etc. Landscape photographers must rely on external factors like the weather and vantage point. Sports photographers are restricted by how close they can get to their subjects. Portrait photographers have to deal with all manner of moods and emotions from their clients. Photographing inanimate objects can happen just about anywhere. A studio space is not necessary. You can use your kitchen and set up on the table. Backyards and public parks can be great locations for outdoor still life photography. What do you like looking at? Find something you like – it will be more engaging. Small but not too small objects are easier to manage. Still life with large items like refrigerators or park benches will be more challenging to work with. You are not restricted to fruit and bunches of flowers. Whatever and where ever you chose, you can improve upon three essential skills by photographing still life. This can help you gain a better understanding of composition. Moving your objects around you will see how they relate differently to each other. Experiment with high and low angles. Watch how this can dramatically affect your composition. Doing this in a situation where you have control and freedom to move about will help you learn to do so other times you are taking photos. Backgrounds can be varied. You can use just the natural surroundings or add in your own backdrop. If the room ambiance is conducive to the images you want to make, use it well. However, if there are distracting elements behind your set up, insert a backdrop of your own. This can be a piece of card or cloth or something else to help enhance your composition. Having the freedom to manipulate your compositions will enhance your photography in general. Lighting Working with inanimate objects is a great opportunity to learn more about lighting. With people, animals and other things that move about, being consistent with lighting can be challenging. Landscapes and architectural photography can have more complex lighting demands. Starting with a simple light set up is good if you are new to photography. The kitchen window if your objects are on the kitchen table. Start making your series of photos and then open the kitchen door to let light in from another direction. Compare your photos and see the changes adding more light makes. Use a lamp or flashlight. These allow you to see the effect of the light, unlike using a camera flash. Vary the position of the lights. Lift them higher or drop them down lower. Moving them further away will lessen the amount of light on your objects. Reflectors can be made good use of in still life photography. Even a sheet of white A4 printer paper can be an effective reflector. Try different reflective surfaces of varying sizes and study the difference they have on your scene. Look at the direction of light and shadows. How do they interact when you have more than one light source? It can help you to know when to add another light source or reflector. Taking Your Time Setting up for a still life photo session somewhere you can leave it a few days or weeks has its benefits. So often people are in too much of a rush to get a photo and move on. Take your time, and work slowly as a painter does. Maybe you will see the relationship between elements differently. The lighting will have changed from morning till afternoon if you are using natural light. You might think of another object you want to add to the scene that will really make the photo. Ideas will come that you had not thought of initially. Changing lens focal lengths is also good to experiment with. Compare how the objects interact with each other and the background as you view them with different lenses. Does moonlight provide the most interesting lighting for your composition? Or is it best first thing in the morning? Conclusion Find yourself some space. Gather together a few of your most aesthetic things. Take your time to move them around and change the lighting. Think about how the objects relate to each other. Think about the different results you achieve when you change the lighting. Please share with us any still life photos you may have taken in the comments below.

Chapter 7 : Acts NLT - The Believers Form a Community - All - Bible Gateway

Here are the three lessons we can learn from Ginsburg about ambition. Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a role model for all women to step into their power and own their ambition.

This is the model for the early church. It is also the foundation for our church today. It is all that the church should be. It is all that we, as a church, will strive to be. Worship “together we join in regular worship Serve “together we serve others Learn “together we study the Word and grow Pray “together we pray regularly How do you fit in to that picture? How can you best live out Acts 2: How do I Choose a Worship Service? Our worship services are all about one hour in length. Ranging from casual to modern to traditional in style, we try to offer a variety of styles to enhance your Worship experience. Service opportunities abound a BLC. What are your interests? What do you love to do? There are many untapped spiritual gifts in every congregation. Find yours by serving through BLC via events and projects intended to reach the lost, as Jesus asks us to. Not sure how to figure out where or how to serve. All aspects of church life push us towards learning and growth. Worship, Service, Prayer and Learning are all crucial to growth or discipleship. Study is one of the easiest to neglect aspects of Christian life. Commit to making a regular study part of your life. We want to help connect you with a study that you can make a regular part of your growth in Christ. Study Options How do I Pray? You can pray however you want! Prayer is a conversation with your Creator. You can be open and honest with Him always. His love for you is never ending. If you love to pray and would consider praying for others, let us know. We need prayer warriors on our email prayer partners team!

Chapter 8 : Timeless Lessons Life Teaches

Living an active life is one of the most rewarding gifts you can give yourself and those you love. Simply put, daily physical activity increases your length and quality of life. Learn how to get active and move more.

Every year by April, those same millions have given up their resolutions as unattainable. As Christians, all of us would say that we want to change so that we will be more like Christ. And yet, when it comes right down to it, change is hard. So how can we change for good? By for good, I mean both permanently and for good in terms of our character and behavior. How can we change to become more like Jesus Christ? Some of you have a much more difficult battle than others do. But while the battle may be more difficult, the good news is that the Bible promises change to all who have trusted in Christ. In verse 1, Paul addresses his readers as brethren, which assumes that they have experienced the new birth. God has changed their hearts from being hostile towards Him to loving Him. They have believed in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, so that they are no longer living according to their own selfish desires. They have presented their bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord. You must have experienced that change of salvation and total commitment of your life to God Rom. Also, as we saw last time, your motive for why you want to change is crucial. God gets our attention when we disobey Him by allowing the negative consequences of sin to make life miserable. You were a sinner deserving His judgment when He graciously opened your eyes to see that Christ died for your sins Rom. And so you cried out to Him and He saved you. Now, out of gratitude for His mercy and out of a heartfelt desire to please the God who rescued you from judgment, you want your life to bring glory to Him. Paul gives a negative command and then a positive one: World is literally, age, referring to the present evil age, which is passing away, in contrast to the coming eternal age in which righteousness dwells 2 Pet. Paul says 2 Cor. So the change that we need to make is to live in distinct contrast to this evil age. But what does that mean? One of my classmates in seminary told me that when he first met me, he thought that I must not be a Christian. And, we had to wear a coat and tie to class, because all ministers must wear suits. I never could figure that out, because the guys on Wall Street are about as worldly as you can get, and they all wear suits. But having grown up in Southern California, the notion of wearing a suit every day almost kept me out of the ministry! We should look respectable and not draw undue attention to ourselves by outlandish appearance or dress. We should not wear seductive clothing. We should take care of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit, which means not smoking or getting drunk. Of course, it also means watching our weight, which I never heard about in fundamentalist circles! We should not go to movies that defile us with profanity, violence, or sexual scenes which eliminates most movies these days. So not being conformed to the world includes many outward matters. But at its core, not being conformed to this evil age is a matter of how we think. If all our calculations, plans, ambitions are determined by what falls within life here, then we are children of this age. Christian Conduct [Banner of Truth], p. Always live in light of eternity. The process of transformation is a lifelong work of God for which you are responsible. I base this point on the tense, voice, and mood of the verb. It is present tense, indicating an ongoing process. The verb is in the passive voice, indicating that this is a work of God in us. But it is also in the imperative mood, indicating that we are not totally passive in the process. We are responsible to discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness 1 Tim. The balance is Phil. I grant that sometimes God works instant, permanent change. On rare occasions, a man with a fierce temper gets saved and he never explodes in anger again. But those are exceptions, not the general rule. Generally, the process of change is a lifelong battle where the saved person has to learn to depend on the Lord daily. At first there are usually many setbacks. We learn through failure, as Peter painfully did. But as we learn to walk by means of the Holy Spirit, we should see progress in transformation as His fruit is produced in us Gal. Also, God does not change our basic personality type; rather He changes the sinful manifestations of our personality. Before he was converted, Paul was a hard-driving, everything-for-the-cause man. After he was saved, he was all out for the Lord. But he mellowed and became more gracious as he grew in the Lord. But later in life, Paul told Timothy 2 Tim. Study the weaknesses that you are prone to, so that you can be on guard against them and work to overcome them. The means of transformation is the renewing of our minds. All sin and all obedience

begin in the mind. So the key to overcoming sin and to growing in godliness is to change your thinking. How you think about God is immensely important. For example, if you think daily about the fact that God is with you and that He knows your every thought, word, and deed, it would have a profound effect on your behavior. Satan is always trying to distort our view of God. He got Eve to sin by slandering the goodness of God and by casting doubt that He would follow through with His threatened punishment Gen. Do you think that your heart is immune toward sin? The Bible speaks to virtually every area of life. How should we think about trials or success? How should we think about money and possessions? What priorities and goals should we adopt in life? What moral standards should we hold to? What entertainment is wholesome and renewing? How do we process world news of terrorism and threats to our freedom? What political position should we adopt? Should we be concerned about the environment? What is good art? Should Christians be involved in the media? How should we educate our children? The Bible speaks to these and many more issues. This means that you should have a regular habit of reading through the Bible over and over again, to get the balance of the totality of Scripture Ps. God is love, but He is also a God of wrath. You need the balance. Memorize the Word so that you can evaluate any situation or decision in light of Scripture. I am blessed to have a library full of commentaries written by men who are far more gifted in biblical languages and theology than I am. Listen to the sermons of godly preachers. Read good books on the spiritual life. Also, God has given us godly examples of men and women, both in history and people we know who can mentor us. The Bible has many godly examples, but also we have biographies of saints who have walked with God. I have gained more help by reading Christian biographies than from any other source outside of the Bible. Spurgeon, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, and others have deeply impacted me. The best biographies show you the warts and all of these dear people, so that you can learn from both their strengths and weaknesses. One is for books in general; the other is exclusively on Christian biographies and church history. I encourage you to become a reader of good Christian books. I just listened to an interview that Mark Dever conducted with Greg Beale, who was in my class in seminary. He is now a renowned New Testament scholar and seminary professor, author of many books and commentaries. At one point Dever mentioned a scholarly book and Beale said that he read that book while he was brushing his teeth! Dever was surprised and asked him about this. Beale said that he read a page in the morning and another page at night while brushing his teeth, and got through the book in that manner! So you can find time to read if you want to grow! It seems to me that Paul is describing the result of being renewed in your mind:

Chapter 9 : Why Travel Makes You Awesome

Rabbi Judah ben Tema said that Jewish boys should learn the Scripture at age 5, the Mishnah or Jewish law at age 10, and learn to fulfill all the law by age 13, and then they should learn the Talmud, the Jewish commentaries on the Old Testament at age

The punctuation and pronunciation are difficult duh-pew , and the fishing is just as hard. These streamsâ€”Silver Creek south of Ketchum, Ida. You can see them, they can certainly see you, and they prefer to ignore you in ways that feel downright insulting. This is technical fishing, both thrilling and slightly alarming to those who make the pilgrimage. Walk right up to the water, and fish will dart away from the bank. It requires a stealthy approachâ€”slowly creep up to the water like a supplicant before a monarch. Drift the fly in sync with the currentâ€”any drag or inadvertent splash will upset the whole endeavor. Returning to any great water, you recall past triumphs and devastations. Has your casting improved? Do you mend line well? Are your tactics more refined? You have to have faith that, yes, they are indeed. At DePuy in August, I knew I had my work cut out since it was late in the season and the fish have seen a lot of flies. I recall losing fish here in a startling variety of ways. But bit by bit you do improve. They seemed to be eating midges. Now midges are about the most nondescript bugs there are, barely more than a small hook wrapped in string. I drifted the midge through the feeding fish and quickly had a hit. A fat rainbow jumped and flashed his metallic sides. Glory on the spring creek! Praise to the midge! The line went suddenly slack. I succumbed to that sudden, hollow feeling. In my torrent of self-congratulation the trout made one last dive and broke free. I smiled the smile of one wronged by the injustices of the universe but with only himself to blame. The next trout, however, came quickly. My heart raced, but everything aligned, and I landed it. It was a healthy cutthroat, with the wonderful rose-and-gold color those lovely fish are known for. I needed nothing more in the world. I drank a beer. My sense of enlightenment was strained, however, when I lost the next fish. But it was restored when I landed a meaty rainbow. There was a pattern here. I was doing my part, tactically speaking, though that still meant I might lose a fish. Every angler knows this, but the pang when you lose a good fish never goes away. This balance between triumph and pain is a reminder that on spring creeks, as everywhere else, improvement gets you in the game while teaching you how much more you have to learn.