

A Disciple's Motivation

2 Corinthians 5:9-15

9. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 11. Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. 14. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15. And he died for all, that, those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

1. What Motivates You?

What lights your fire? What gets you focused? What turns you on?

We began this series a two months ago with the topic of a Disciple's Disciplines. Discipline makes us disciples. Discipline is "making yourself do what you don't want to do, because you know it is good for you." I gave you a list of books on Spiritual Disciplines. Many of you express appreciation for that challenge and a desire to change and begin new disciplines. That is motivation. What motivates you? What robs you of motivation. (ie Newton's law of motion – inertia, force, friction, gravity act against an object in motion. But in space, a vacuum there is not resistance so an object loses no momentum.

I have a long-standing argument with a missionary friend about what motivates people. A few years ago a church growth strategist declared that "**success**" is the **greatest motivational force**. I disagree. I don't know how success can motivate when in order to be successful you must have some prior motivation to make you succeed.

What do you think is the most effective people motivator?

My argument is that **money** is the great motivator. Think about it. Isn't that why you get up every morning and go to work. You don't go because its fun or you've nothing else to do. You go because you get paid to go. The more you get paid the higher the incentive to go and keep on going.

Paul mentions two motivations at work in the believer. The first mentioned is fear. Knowing the fear of the Lord we persuade men. The second is the love of Christ motivates us.

Exposition

1. Our Goal is to Please Him (9)

It is our first love – total commitment

2. The Fear of The Lord Motivates Us (10-11)

We will appear before the judgment seat of Christ

What we are is plain to God – naked, exposed

3. The Love of Christ Motivates Us (14)

He died in our place – He died for all

4. Therefore we live no longer for self (15)

We live to please him always, in everything

A True Disciples Motivation: -

Quotes - Great motivators

"Motivation is simple. You eliminate those who are not motivated." Lou Holtz, Univ of South Carolina

- To Pray Fervently
- To Read Your Bible
- To Give Your Tithes and Offerings
- To Go to Church Regularly
- To Worship Passionately
- To Serve the Lord Faithfully
- To Obey His Commands 1st & Foremost
- To Confess Sin and Stay Pure
- To Get Out of the Boat and Believe God

Motivation is DESIRE caught on fire – me - *Jeremiah 20:9 // Acts 2:4 rushing wind, fire.*

A disciple's motivation should come from within.

Jeremiah 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

II. What Motivates the World?

There are a lot of ways to motivate people. The business world is full of seminars, books, and tutorials for managers on how to motivate people. Books: Managing with Carrots, True Motivations

- (ie) Threats & Fear
- (ie) Humiliation & Intimidation
- (ie) Rewards – money
- (ie) Success, happiness, sex, good looks, cars, beer

Money, Cash Rewards, Stroked Ego, Fame, Fortune, Intimidation, Fear, Humiliation

When we are judged (examined) by the Lord, we are being disciplined (corrected) so that we will not be condemned with the world. I Cor 11:32

III. What Hinders Your Motivation?

Inertia Newton's Law

"An object at rest tends to stay at rest and an object in motion tends to stay in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an unbalanced force."

Inertia = the resistance an object has to a change in its state of motion. Mass, Friction,

Something has hindered your progress, motivation, forward movement.

- ...Satan hinders us**
- ...the world hinders us.**
- ...the flesh hinders us**

Conclusion: Your Lost Motivation

What Can You Do About Lost Motivation.

Let's look at two passages in Revelation where Jesus speaks about lost motivation.

Lost love. Lukewarmness! Something stopped you. De-motivated you. Distracted or discouraged you.

?? **Revelation 2:4** – I have something against you because you left your first love.

?? **Revelation 3:16** – you have become lukewarm, not cold just insipid.

Restoration Comes From The Lord

Isaiah 40:31 Wait on the Lord,

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.– Isaiah 40:31

“Get your motivation back!

Re-ignite the fire!”

Revelation 3:16-20

Discipline of the Week

Get Alone With God (Isaiah 40:31)

Put the Lord Jesus back into your schedule. Feed your heart's fire with the presence of the Lord and his personal whisper. Get alone with God, today perhaps, go to a lake, a park, sit on a park bench and reevaluate your love relationship. Ask God to rekindle the flame that once burned bright. Use the material on Intimacy With God provided in the church office and on our Website. www.PrayerToday.org is a great resource for rekindling the dying flames of love. A Saturday or Sunday afternoon is a great time to get alone with God. Ask your spouse or a friend to handle the kids for 5-6 hours while you go apart with the Lord for a while. I recommend nearby Memorial Park in Grove City. Or sometimes I take my bike, a Bible, notebook, and a prayer guide to Moraine State Park or Lake Wilhelm to ride for an hour to a quiet setting along the lake and there meet with the Lord.

Take A Personal Prayer Retreat (Mark 6:31)

There are many retreat centers and camp facilities open year-round for your help and convenience of getting alone with God. Usually these cost about \$25 per night or less for an individual's personal prayer retreat. Take the Manual on Intimacy With God and use it in a disciplined manner. Let God visit your heart in the stillness of the woods, lake, or solitary room somewhere. Visit www.PrayerToday.org where you can get a list of retreat locations and costs. Also download material for your retreat at not cost to you.

Illustration

Lou Holtz, Football Coach, University of South Carolina

- ?? A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song. --
- ?? A lifetime contract for a coach means if you're ahead in the third quarter and moving the ball, they can't fire you. --
- ?? Coaching is nothing more than eliminating mistakes before you get fired. --
- ?? Don't be a spectator, don't let life pass you by. --
- ?? How you respond to the challenge in the second half will determine what you become after the game, whether you are a winner or a loser. --
- ?? If you burn your neighbors house down, it doesn't make your house look any better. --
- ?? If you're bored with life - you don't get up every morning with a burning desire to do things - you don't have enough goals. --
- ?? It is a fine thing to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the true test. --
- ?? *It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it.* --
- ?? *Life is ten percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it.* --
- ?? *No one has ever drowned in sweat.* --
- ?? *On this team, we're all united in a common goal: to keep my job.* --
- ?? Show me someone who has done something worthwhile, and I'll show you someone who has overcome adversity. --
- ?? The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely the one who dropped it. --
- ?? There's nothing in this world more instinctively abhorrent to me than finding myself in agreement with my fellow-humans. --
- ?? When all is said and done, more is said than done. --