

What's my motivation?

Our life purpose must be God - Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Our motivation or purpose is what truly determines the outcome - Gal 4:17-18 - 17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you [from us], so that you may be zealous for them. 18 **IT IS FINE TO BE ZEALOUS, provided the purpose is good**, and to be so always and not just when I am with you.

Satan asks God a legitimate question - Job 1:9-11 - 9 "**DOES JOB FEAR GOD FOR NOTHING?**" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

When our motivation is wrong it will distort our walk with Christ - Mark 10:17-25- 17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good — except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" 20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 At this the man's face fell. **HE WENT AWAY SAD, BECAUSE HE HAD GREAT WEALTH.** 23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

When our motivation is wrong we are more of a danger to our brother than a help - Rom 14:13-16 - 13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. 14 As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. 15 If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. 16 Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil.

This all comes down to the true meaning of "Reap/Sow" - Gal 6:7-9 - 7 **Do not be deceived:** God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows TO PLEASE his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows TO PLEASE the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

When & How did our motivation become so distorted

These last days when we put ourselves before God - 2 Tim 3:1-5 - **But mark this:** There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 **PEOPLE WILL BE** lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

These last days when we twisted God's Word to suit us - 2 Tim 4:3-4 - 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Two steps to always having the right motivation

Knowing there is only one real motivation - Rom 9:16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but **on God's mercy**.

Remember we were all called for God's purpose - Rom 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

What is Your Motivation?

***The wrong motivation is leading many into wrong relationships, depression, extreme pain, bondage, wrong/no worship, death & worst of all getting away from God.**

Wrong motivation keeps us from receiving from God - James 4:1-3 - What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with **WRONG MOTIVES**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Altogether, nothing here is to be our motivation - 1 Cor 7:29-31 - 29 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live **AS IF they had none**; 30 those who mourn, **AS IF they did not**; those who are happy, **AS IF they were not**; those who buy something, **AS IF it were not theirs to keep**; 31 those who use the things of the world, **AS IF not engrossed in them**. **For this world in its present form is passing away.**

What must not be our motivation?

Christians are to automatically remove self and selfish ambitions as motivations - Matt 16:24-26 -24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for a man if he **gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?** Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

A Christian's family is no longer to be the motivation - Matt 10:37-39 - 37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Wealth as a motivation is extremely dangerous - 1 Tim 6:6-10 - 6 But **godliness with contentment is great gain**. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 **People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires** that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Remember our personal desire in control leads to death - James 1:14-15 - 14 but each one is tempted when, by HIS OWN EVIL DESIRE, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

The urgent path to the right motivation

We MUST not just say this, we MUST apply it - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

Sight= what we see, touch, experience (senses)

Faith= what God says.

Jesus, our example, lived with the right motivation - Heb 12:2-3 - 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM** endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 **Consider him** who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

We must take control of our bodies (emotions, feelings, senses...) not the other way around - 1 Cor 9:24-27 - 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but **we do it to get a crown that will last forever**. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, **I BEAT MY BODY AND MAKE IT MY SLAVE** so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Our motivation must be heaven purposed - Matt 6:19-21 - 19 "**DO NOT store up for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**.

We MUST diminish everything that is our individual treasure - Phil 3:7-11 - 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. **I consider them rubbish**, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Job exemplifies how a Christian is to respond to undesirable times

He accepted God's actions and worshiped HIM - Job 1:20-22 - 20 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 21 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. **The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.**" 22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

He accepted all of God's response weather good or bad - Job 2:9-10 - 9 His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

He let God know he would hope in Him no matter what -Job 13:15 **Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him**; I will surely defend my ways to his face.