



July 6, 2008

Motivation

Millions of dollars are made and spent every year as companies hire dynamic coaches, managers and speakers to motivate employees and instill in them a sense of pride in what they do. Some respond to this favorably but few act on the lessons taught. Many people in their personal lives exist from day to day depending on employers, professionals and the government to take care of them. Dependency is a natural state that one may fall into when motivation, and the need for it, is not fully understood. Motivation is of course the energy and the desire to do something. We are motivated to do many things but sometimes these are not of a productive nature. Behind the motivation we have to understand the motive, the reason why we are doing something. As we look around us we find that most folks are very motivated to do something that either has personal meaning to them, or has an immediate effect in terms of personal gratification. Still, there are many who live, complain and die without ever being motivated or enthused about doing anything. Motivation can be strong but be for the wrong reasons. Balaam was motivated to do the bidding of Balak and curse Israel but was hampered in the attempt by God's intervention (**Num 22-25**). Balaam was motivated by greed and did not think God would stop him but the Lord did exactly that permitting the mercenary prophet to voice only the words God put in his mouth. Later we find that it was Balaam who was behind the fornication that led to the downfall of thousands in the wilderness for which he paid with his life (**Rev 2.14**). From events like this in the scriptures we realize there is such a thing as being motivated spiritually. We must determine what our motives are. Do we intend to serve God or do we love the personal gains that come our way. Serving God of course should be enjoyable and personally satisfying but there are folks who may not be motivated for the right reasons. Our desire, and motivation to serve God should begin when we realize that we are separated from God and that his son died for us. That instills a sense of obligation. Some appear to think that God owes it to mankind to save

us. It was man that betrayed the love of God in the first place and brought sin into the world. We had help in the form of Satan, but we cannot blame him completely. Coming to this knowledge, a sense of obligation should fill us with relief, at being saved, and zeal, to return the love in the form of obedience. A failure to come to terms with the gospel in this sense will lead our personally oriented motivation to change the doctrine of the New Testament. We have to realize that serving God means just that, to serve. God is not our servile ally to be called upon every time we him to do something for us. It is the other way around. Christ demonstrated this when he was on the earth as he explained the reason for his work to his disciples and others. ***“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.” (John 4.34)***. Christ also dispelled concerns over who wanted to be the greatest when he told his disciples, ***“And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matt 20.27-28)***. It was a natural thing for the human disciples to misconstrue the purpose for their calling and to try to create a “pecking order” of who was the greatest. This happens among God's people today and all organizations that are made up of humans. It points to an improper motivation and lack of understanding of the purpose for serving the Lord. When one is properly motivated they will obey the Lord according to the conditions that he has set forth in his word. That sets the tone for the rest of life as we seek to do all things according to his word and will, and to do them for the sake of the cause of the kingdom of God. A spiritual kingdom that was paid for by the blood of the son of God who was willing to set his will aside for that of the father as an example of what we should be and what true motivation is.

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