

LESSON 2: MOTIVATION IN LIFE

REVIEW: Two authorities in a Christian's life:

1. Scripture
2. Holy Spirit

Today we are going to focus on what the motivation is in your life. You can either be motivated to do what brings you glory and pleasure or motivated to do what brings God glory and pleasure.

Often people know what they *should* do; but are not motivated to *do* it.

► If you knew what the two authorities in your life are saying (the Bible and the Holy Spirit) would you be motivated to obey?

Motivation is critical to someone being obedient to what God has told them to do.

Example: *When a person has sin in their life, and they ask God to remove the sin, their motivation for asking God to remove the sin can be many different things. One motivation is a person will be more effective in living out their calling from God if this sin is removed. This sounds good, but it is the wrong motivation. God says sin is wrong in our lives; not because it damages our testimony, but because it damages our relationship with Him.*

Sometimes God will tell you to do what you want to do, so it is easy to obey and respond to His authority. Other times, God will tell you to do something you do not want to do.

Example in the Bible: *The Holy Spirit directed Jesus to the cross, but Jesus asked with great emotion if this task could be removed from His life. Mark 14:34 tells us that Jesus was deeply grieved to the point of death. Yet Jesus went to the cross because there was a motivation in Him that was greater than His own personal desires.*

Example in Marriage: *When people decide to get married, they often go through counseling to learn how to build a God-honoring marriage. At some point, the couple will wound each other simply because of the many natural differences between men and women. In general, men want respect and women want love. When their needs are not met, they often become self-focused and their marriage is damaged. The couple could wake up one day upset, and if their motivation is not right, they may pack up and leave.*

► What is the correct motivation?

Galatians 6:16 tells us that the purpose God originally had for Israel, He now has for us, the Gentiles. Since Israel is God's chosen people, He gave them many special blessings all

throughout the Bible. When Israel turned its back on Jesus Christ, God chose to extend those blessings to the Gentile church which includes us today. Therefore, we should pay close attention to the commands and promises given to Israel in the Old Testament, because those now apply to us as part of the Gentile church blessed by God.

Read *Exodus 3:14-15*

- ▶ What does God say that His name is?

God tells Moses that His personal name is Yahweh (I Am who I Am).

Read *Exodus 9:16*

- ▶ What is our purpose in being raised up?

If God raised us up so that He could show us His power, and to proclaim His name in all the earth, then this should be at the core of our motivation.

One example of this was God talking to Pharaoh. **Read *Exodus 9:7, 12, 34***

- ▶ What differences do you see in these three exchanges between God and Pharaoh?

In verse 7, we see Pharaoh hardening his heart and choosing to do what he wants instead of what God wants. In verse 12, we see where God hardens the heart of Pharaoh. Then in verse 34, we see God giving Pharaoh another chance, but Pharaoh hardens his heart again and follows his own will. From this point on, *God* hardens Pharaoh's heart.

God desires that every living being, both saved and lost, to bring glory to His name.

Example of Barbara Streisand: *God gave her a lovely voice to glorify His name, but she has chosen not to use her voice to bring glory to God's name. Rather she uses her voice for her own fame and glory.*

The purpose of our life is to bring glory to God's name.

Read *Exodus 20:24*

- ▶ Where does God say that He will come and bless us?

What does it mean, "Where I cause My name to be remembered?"

It is not about me and my name being blessed, but rather it is all about God and *His* name being blessed.

Read *John 15:4-5, 7-8*

- ▶ What is essential in order to bear much fruit?

We must abide in the vine or be in the Word and communication with God.

- ▶ What do these verses tell us to do so that the Father's name will be glorified?

Bearing fruit brings glory to God's name and not our own. We cannot bear fruit unless we abide in Him and His Word abides in us.

Read *Leviticus 22:31-32*

- ▶ What does God ask of us in these verses so that we do not profane His name?
- ▶ What is it that allows sanctification to occur?

Only those who keep His commandments will bring glory to God and honor His name. The Bible and the Holy Spirit will tell us how to honor His name. If I will honor His name, then these two things will be true in my life:

1. I will yield to what the Bible says.
2. I will yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

My motivation will be that I *want* God's name to be honored.

Read *Numbers 6:22-27*: Aaron's blessing and benediction.

- ▶ In verse 27, what are we told needs to happen for us to be blessed?

What is meant by "invoke My name on the sons of Israel"?

According to dictionary.com, 'invoke' means *"to call for with earnest desire; make supplication or pray for: to invoke God's mercy."* Therefore those who pray for God's name to be made known to all people will be blessed.

Read *II Samuel 7:1-14* and summarize.

DAVID DESIRES TO BUILD A TEMPLE

David wanted to build a temple for God; but God told him no. God makes a promise to David; that his offspring will be allowed to build a temple for God. The purpose for this temple was to honor God's name and not to honor Solomon or David. The church should also purpose to bring glory to God's name and not any person or country.

Read *I Kings 8:43*: Solomon's prayer when dedicating the temple.

- ▶ What does Solomon pray will happen to all the peoples of the earth?
- ▶ What about the people of Israel?

The purpose for God's blessing on Israel was for all people to know and embrace God. Israel does not understand this because they think God belongs only to them. Instead of God's name being something they share, they think it is something they possess only for themselves. In the New Testament, the Jews hate the Gentiles and Samaritans because they think they are better than these people because God belongs to them. God blessed the children of Israel so that they could tell others about Him so that they might believe.

Read *Psalm 31:3*

- ▶ Why does God lead and guide me?

God leads and guides me for *His* name's sake. People often say that they do not know what God wants them to do. To seek God's guidance for what I should do, God wants me to:

1. Pray through it.
2. Want *His* name glorified in my life. If I do, then He will lead and guide me.

His purpose is *personal*- he wants *His* Name glorified in my life. If that is my motivation and He is my heart beat, then my direction is being led by Him. He will not let me miss His blessing and direction if this is my true desire and purpose. We often miss what He wants because at the end of the day, *His* name is not what we want.

Read *Psalm 89:24*

As in Psalm 89:24, the horn is used as a symbol of power. If you want His power in your life, then the motivation must be His name—not *your name* or *your power* or *your glory*. If you are concerned about His name being first in your life, then His power will surface in your life, and then you will be able to conquer sin. If want His power, you must choose to want His name glorified and not your own.

Read *Matthew 10:22*

- ▶ If we live our lives in such a way to bring glory to God's name, what will be the result for us?

If I live for His name, the world will hate me. They will hate me not because of my name, but Jesus' name. If you live for Jesus Christ, the world will hate you. His is the name we live by, honor and glorify. If say you say the name Jesus and state His impact in your life instead of using the name God, then people will hate you. We must yield to the name of Jesus. Most of the turmoil in the Middle East is due to the hatred of His name. If we use the name "God", not as many will hate us because God is a more generic name. Even the Arabs believe in God. If we

who love Jesus did not claim the God of the Jews, there would not have been planes flown into our buildings.

BENEFITS FOR US:

Read *Matthew 19:27, 29*

► When Peter states that the disciples have left everything to follow Jesus and ask what will there be for them, what is Jesus' answer?

He responds, "I will receive these things after I die because I lived for His name."

Read *I Corinthians 3:10-15*

► What happens to the treasures we build up for ourselves? What happens to the treasures we build up for God?

Whatever you do for yourself and not for God will be burned up and will be of no benefit. *All* things are burned up if not done correctly and built on the right foundation. If these things do not reflect God's glory, then no blessing will be received after you die. Your actions must be for His sake. If we live for the name of Jesus, then we are rewarded in heaven depending on what we choose to do here. Your choice is to do either what you want or to live in a manner that causes His name to be glorified.

Marriages do not work if both spouses do not live to glorify God but instead are selfish and self-seeking. If a woman is in a loveless marriage where the husband exhibits no emotional love, then this marriage will not be healthy; but there is not a scriptural basis to get out of the marriage. If you choose to honor Jesus and the teaching in I Corinthians 7, then you will have to live in a loveless marriage. This will be very painful here on earth, but when you die, Jesus will say that you stayed in a loveless marriage because it was not about your pleasure but about His pleasure in your life. You will receive rewards in heaven when you die because you chose to honor God's name on earth. There are 12 main thrones, as well as many other thrones in heaven. We are the highest beings God ever created. Because of this, when we die, He gives us quadrants in the universe to rule under Him. The size and position will be based on how we lived here on earth. The reward there will be great. Here, you will be hated and possibly persecuted for standing for the name of Jesus, but you will gain far more in eternity than you could ever lose here.

Read *John 14:13-14*

► If we want our prayers to be answered, how are we to pray? What does it mean to ask in Jesus' name?

Our prayers should be focused on what will best bring glory to God's name. When our prayers are focused on God's plan and *His name*, then our prayers will be answered.

My motivation should be that God is pleased and that He alone is glorified in my life. It comes down to my decision to honor His name or my own. It is not about what makes me happy, but about what honors *His name*.

God the Father said of Jesus when He was baptized, "*This is my son in whom I am well pleased.*" Jesus lived to please His Father and not Himself. When we finish each day, we should ask ourselves one question, "Are people talking about my name today or are they talking about God's name because of my life reflecting the glory of God?"

Many times we know what God says...BUT... We cannot add exclusions to what God commands us to do. We must change this attitude to get to the place where we say... I know what God wants, so therefore I will obey Him. His name, not mine is what is most important in my life. When others are around me, whose name are they talking about -- His or mine? This is a great struggle in our lives—especially when we are in the public light. When we fail in this, it is most often because of pride and the fact we are self-centered. His name (and not my own) being the driving force in my life will be a struggle, but it is important to remember that it is not about your name—it is about *His name*.

We cannot allow our emotions to control our walk with Christ. Our attitude can be bad but we must stay in the relationship. How we feel does not matter- obedience matters. If you look at Jesus, He did not feel good about going to cross, but He did it anyway. When we do not want to be obedient but we are anyway, this may honor God even more.

It's your choice: whose name will be glorified first through your life -- Your name or God's?