

MOTIVATED TO SERVE

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

Motivation is the reason one has for behaving or acting in a particular way; the force behind our actions. “Make your bed, I brought you into this world and I can take you out”. When it comes to serving God, scripture reveals that believers have served God from both good and bad motives. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their wrong motives. **MT. 23:27-28**

Wrong Motives

- 1.) Legalism: **GAL. 3:1-3** Some were teaching that one must earn salvation by keeping the law and doing good works. This is contrary to being saved by grace through faith. The same is true with experiencing Gospel benefits, such as healing.
- 2.) To deal with false guilt. **1 JOHN 1:9** I was taught the Blood of Christ wasn't sufficient. My works of penance or self-inflicted punishments were also needed.
- 3.) Preeminence: **3 JOHN 9** The desire to surpass others, or superiority. For selfish desires, such as financial gain, power or status. **LUKE 18:9-14**

Proper Motives

The Bible presents some clear and powerful motives for serving God and living a Godly lifestyle. Some of which include:

- 1.) Jesus' Sacrifice: **2 COR. 5:21** God placed our great sin debt upon Christ. What we owed and could never pay, Christ paid in full out of His love for us. **ISAIAH 53:1-6** God laid on Christ our iniquity. The penalty and guilt of sin has been removed. **ROM. 6:20-23**
- 2.) Love: **1 JOHN 4:19** Love is the highest motive for serving God and others. **JOHN 13:34-35** We must first have a revelation of God's love for us. **JOHN 21:15-17** Jesus wants us to prove our love for Him by serving Him. **1 COR. 13:1-3** Love is to be the motivating force behind all we do. Serving God should be motivated by love and a desire to please Him.
- 3.) Gratitude: **PS. 100:1-2** When we fully realize how much we've been forgiven and the sacrifice Christ made for us, is when we're moved to serve God out of love and gratitude.
- 4.) The Judgment Seat of Christ: **2 COR. 5:9-10** We all must choose between being self, people or God pleasers. Jesus always pleased His Father. **JOHN 17:4** It's all about what God needs us to do, not what we think we should do!
- 5.) Godly Fear: **HEB. 12:25-29** Fear serves as a powerful motivation. **MT. 10:28 KJV, MSG.** The Lake of Fire should motivate us to serve God and influence others to do so also. **ROM. 3:18** Hebrews uses warnings to motivate believers away from apostasy.
- 6.) Being an Ambassador for Christ: **2 COR. 5:15-20** An ambassador is a representative of the highest order. What a privilege we have to represent the government of heaven. We are to live as light and salt in order to direct others to Christ.

Conclusion:

God has brought us out of satanic slavery so that we would serve Him and proclaim the Gospel to this generation. All He requires is that we do what He knows He has equipped us to do and anointed us to do. We've all been called to serve the author and finisher of our faith.