



James 3:13 - "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom." (NIV)

INEFFECTIVE MOTIVATION:

Motivated by Guilt Feelings

This is something that we tell ourselves that we SHOULD do every year. Or maybe we have family members who are always nagging us that we SHOULD do this and that. So finally you told yourself, WE SHOULD, WE SHOULD, WE SHOULD... And we don't do it, there's guilt feelings. Then, the guilt feelings keep on piling up and you're sick of the guilt feelings. And so here's the motivation: I have to get rid of the guilt feelings. So smokers will either get patch to stop smoking or use e-cigarette or talk to people who quit smoking. But after 6 weeks, they go back to their old ways. You know why? Because the motivation is to remove the guilt feelings. Guilt feelings is just like a battery in the car. It can get you started but it won't make you continue moving. You need alternator and you need other parts. Guilt feelings don't last.

Motivated by Selfish Desires

The Bible calls selfish desires as LUST. You want to change because there's a belief system that we have to have MORE, BETTER, or BIGGER. The motivation is if I do this, I'll be happy. You see, if you're motivated by personal gratification, it will be short-term. Thus, when you sing praises to God on Sundays, it should match up how you behave with your family, the way you handle your money, the way you take care of your health, and the way you work in the office. James is pointing here about duplicity. If integrity is something that fits everything together, your behavior and belief match up, you live the same way Sunday till Saturday. James is saying here that some Christians are living two kinds of life.

MOTIVATIONAL PRINCIPLES:

The Principle of Certain Accountability

James 3:1 - "Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly." (NIV)

This is the motivation of promised judgment. Imagine during the ministry of Jesus, there are a lot of rabbis. Every rabbi wanted to be called teacher. But unfortunately, their teaching and lifestyle don't match. This is why James said, "Stop this madness of wanting to be a teacher. You want to know why? The promise of judgement awaits." The motivation is through accountability.

1 Corinthians 3:11-13 - "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work." (NIV)

One day, the Lord will assess what we did with our life and he'll judge us on that. It will be revealed by fire. The fire will test the quality of each man's work. Not only that, God will also test the reason, the WHY, we do it.

In the Bible, when the angels and the elders and people of God are face to face with God, they fell flat on the floor. But we Christians are not like that to God. We don't honor God. We don't fear God. We just want to treat God as our friend. We want to treat God as we treat our parents. We want God as our friend so we also disrespect Him whether consciously or unconsciously. We treat God as our genie to give us our needs. For a lot of Christians, there's no more joy in going to church or reading the Bible. We just want God when we need Him for something. And what's worse, we're so demanding to God. We want our prayer requests to be answered instantly.

Do you want to be motivated to read the Bible with passion? Spend some time in thinking about fear of the Lord. It's a powerful motivator. Proverbs 9:10 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding (NIV)." Remember: One day, God will hold you accountable with your life, time, money, skills and spiritual gifts.

The Principle of Future Reward

James 3:18 - "Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness." (NIV)

This is the motivation of hope. Peace here does not only mean lack of conflict. Peace here is SHALOM which means the wholeness of God, the blessings of God. James is saying, if you're living an integrated life, being true to what you preach to others, overtime you'll harvest this righteousness, your life is changed, your family is changed, your friends are changed. As we often say, if I change, everything changes.

Galatians 6:7 - "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows (NIV)." If you sow to the flesh, if you sow to the selfish ambition, it reaps death and corruption. If you sow to the spirit, if you sow to the works God told you to do so, if you honor God with your time, if you develop the right relationships that matter, it will bring life and peace.

If you're reaping consequences now, it's not because you sinned today but it could be because of your past mistakes.

If you truly believe that God is all powerful and He knows what's best for you, if you truly believe that He loves you so much to give you the best, it motivates you to do it long-term. Whatever is your life's result right now, you're designing your time, energy and focus to produce the exact result that you want to get.

Wherever you have invested it, there you will reap a reward. But remember, God will definitely meet you and check what you've done with your life. Will He say, "Well done great and faithful servant here's your reward," or will he say, "You're saved but you've never done anything for people to be saved or for people to be disciplined. You're just so focused with girls, boys, money, sports, soap opera, or buying clothes. Since you're so focused with your life on earth, you don't have a reward here in heaven."

Don't just be a spectator in this Christian world. I want you to live your life to win. Set goals on doing what God wants.

LIFEGROUPS

Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you experienced being motivated with the wrong reason in mind, share?**
- 2. How does being accountable change the way you live your life ?**
- 3. How does reward in heaven sounds to you?**