

How Should I Live ??

Over the many years that I was in sales, I attended many sales seminars. Without exception, every one of them was designed to make me better at doing what I was doing. This goal was approached in various different ways, either through better product knowledge, greater customer awareness, better understanding of the economic times of the area that I served and how best to service my customer area given those conditions, or something else along those lines. But the underlying theme of every one of those seminars was always motivation. This is the basis of every commercial you hear or see on a billboard or TV. What makes people do what they do? What determines the direction that you choose to follow in your life? There are a myriad numbers of ways to motivate someone; **1** Reward, Justification, Pride, Responsibility – Duty, Fear. These are all motivating factors. They are the inner urgings that each of us have, and once you find the right urge in someone's heart and mind, you can motivate them to do or be most anything. Unfortunately this works for both good and bad. That's when our conscience, based on our education, our knowledge and experience, has to make a decision to determine if we are allowing ourselves to be motivated in the right direction. These decisions are our lives. Every moment of every day is made up of decisions, and we make these decisions based on what motivates us. The end result of these decisions is what is called life, which brings us to our topic for this lesson...

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Gal 2:18-21

3

18 "For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor. **19** "For through the Law I died to the Law, that I might live to God. **20** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me. **21** "I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

See what Paul is saying here. He had died to the Law, the Old Law, so that through the Law, the New Law, he might find life. What was his motivation? That's easy. Life! Eternal Life that could not be found anywhere except through the New Law. In...

2 Cor 5:7

4

7 for we walk by faith, not by sight...

The context of that statement is that when we are living in the physical, we are not living in the spiritual. We should not base our decisions on the motivation that comes from this world, but rather that which comes from God through His word, spiritually. The rest of the passage there in 2 Cor. is...

2 Cor 5:6-10

5

6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord — **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight — **8** we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. **9** Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Paul isn't talking about some out of body experience, he is saying that to be pleasing to God, we must be motivated by the spiritual things in God's word as opposed to the physical things of this world, the Lust of the Flesh, The Lust of the Eye, and the Pride of Life. To be pleasing to God, we must have Christ living in us....

Rom 8:1-10

6

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. **3** For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. **5** For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **7** **6** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, **7** because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; **8** and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **9** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. **10** And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

The danger in application isn't when we allow the Spirit to guide us, to be our motivation. It's when we don't. When we begin to let our own desires, emotions, bias, pre-determined opinions or so called education to be our guide, in other words to live in the body, the physical, instead of in the spirit, that's when we find trouble. That's when we begin to drift away from God and His truth and we cease to live by FAITH. When man quits living by faith, he can pretty much justify anything he wants to do by his own desires and opinions. This brings us to another part of

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Rom 10:17

8

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Matt 4:4

9

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Deut 8:3

10

3 And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

God's word has been given so that man could know how to live and to guide man into all righteousness.

2 Tim 3:16-17

11

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

God's word has been given to...

Rom 15:4

12

4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

2 Tim 3:14-15

13

14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them; **15** and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Paul sums up the point so far, that we are trying to make, that we are to live by faith, faith in God's word. That when we allow the spiritual things of the word to be our motivation we are found righteous, when we don't we aren't. Only in the scriptures can the motivation be found that can lead us to the hope of salvation through Christ Jesus.

In

Titus 2:11-12

14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

Through the denying of the things of this world, ungodliness and worldly desires, and by living according to the New Law we can find salvation.

The motivation of the goal of salvation is truly a powerful hope in the life of one has faith in God's word and trusts in it as their motivation, the encouragement to help us reach that goal. It can instruct us, correct us, and encourage us as nothing in this world can. But we must understand that the negative motivation of this world is a powerful force also, working against the believer.

This takes us to another of our points in

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1 Peter 5:8

15

8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Satan does not want anyone to seek after God and a home eternal in heaven, and he uses every tool in his arsenal to achieve that goal. He seeks to motivate us through the cares of this world, the fleshly desires that are contained herein, apathy concerning God's word, the apparent wisdom of the world, to keep us from following God's truth. Satan doesn't care what our motivation is, as long as it isn't the Word of God. Does that frighten you? It should. It should scare the sin right out of you. And if that doesn't, how about

Matt 10:28

16

28 "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

We are to live by Faith, we are to live by the Word, and we are to live in Fear. Fear of Satan and his desire to draw us away from God and Fear of God, both in the form of Love and Respect for

the Love He has shown us and the fear and trembling from the understanding that He can and will condemn our souls to eternal torment in Hell. We can choose to avoid that condemnation. We can choose to...

1 Peter 1:17-19

17

17 And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth; **18** knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, **19** but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

We can choose to live in fear, not being motivated by the things of this world. We can choose to answer with meekness and fear or reverence our Hope in Christ..

1 Peter 3:15

18

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

This reaffirmed in...

Heb 12:28

19

28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

And as we have already seen in Matt 10:28, our respect and reverence to God is tempered by a healthy dose of fear. Fear for what Satan is trying to do and fear for what God will do if we allow ourselves to be motivated by the things of this world.

God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, has given man the Love, the Avenue, the Resources, and the Motivation, Hope, to lead him to an eternal home in heaven. We need only to live by Faith, the Word, in Fear and....

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In the Spirit...

Gal 5:24-25

20

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

We live by the Spirit when we put away the deeds of this world...

Rom 8:12-14

21

12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh **13** for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

We have come full circle to the passage we read in Gal 2:18-20. Paul is stating again that to put ourselves into position to partake of the blessings that God offers and the Hope of Eternal Life we must put away the motivations of the physical man and Live in Christ...

1 Thess 5:9-10

22

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him.

God wants us to have eternal life. But the choice is ours and we will make that choice based on what we want from this life or the next. What we want from this life or the next is what motivates us. What do you want...

Riches	23	Career oriented, Stealing, Cheating
Physical Pleasure	24	Drugs, alcohol, physical lusts
Mans Praise	25	Fame, glory, celebrity
Leisure	26	Welfare as a career, laziness, living off others
No Responsibility	27	Don't work, take no responsibility for our actions

28 *How Should We Live ??*

Faith **29** *In God & His Word*

Word **30** *Study & Obedience*

Fear **31** *Respect & Trembling*

Spirit **32** *Scripture Given by Inspiration*

It's time for a choice. This choice will be made by each and every one of us based on what we want from this life, our motivations. When is it time to decide to come out of the cocoon of sin that envelopes us and live the life of beauty that the righteousness of God offers? Do you want eternal life with God, or do want to fulfill the physical desires and pleasures that Satan presents to you in this world.