

Motivation

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I. Introduction.

A. Most of us are bound in some way, and it is the will of God that we help each other be free. (John 11:43-44)

B. Motivation. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Colossians 1)

1. It has to do with getting going.

2. We do not need more knowledge but more motivation.

C. Everybody is motivated in some way. Somebody who watches TV or sleeps all day is motivated; the concern is a change of motivation.

D. It is impossible for anyone to make any real change in motivation - it involves a personality change. The personality consists of mind, emotions and will

E. Forecast: change your mind concerning yourself, change your feelings concerning your work and change your goals concerning your personal value system.

II. Changing your mind concerning self-image.

A. Self image is my own conception of the sort of person that I am.

B. We are to have a sane estimate of our own capabilities. (Romans 12:3)

C. 95% of people are subject to feelings of inferiority coming from evaluations of experiences, not facts themselves. 95% also have pride. (1 Corinthians 12)

1. A plastic surgeon found that his patients acted the same because they believed that people still saw themselves the same. He believed that they needed personality surgery.

2. The body chemistry does not evaluate communication from the brain as to whether it is true or false - it only identifies the source. If the brain says something, the body chemistry follows.

a. A person forms his self-image and acts that way regardless of the truth.

b. As a person thinks, so he is. (Proverbs 23:7)

c. The example of a man who could not accept compliments because he believed something that was false as a result of how he was raised.

d. The cure for a negative self image is that you need to believe as many positive thoughts as you have believed negative.

e. Our interpretation of what people think of us determine who we are.

D. How to change.

1. Misinformation has to be corrected to truth. (John 17:17; 8:36; 8:32)

2. Activity: listing strengths and weaknesses of personality, character, and gifts.

3. We all have areas of false concept even though we do not see it.

4. It is valuable to have friends who inform you about your personality deficiencies and encourage you in your strengths - the speaker did this. It can help you to see what you cannot see on your own and change your self-concept to a true one.

a. The speaker was shocked. The things he thought were weaknesses were strengths, and the things he thought were strengths they listed as weaknesses.

b. As a result, he retired many of those weaknesses and utilized his strengths better.

c. It is a lot harder to put on an act than to be real.

5. Although there is great diversity, God loves them all. There are no common people, but each is uncommon. Each is made for a specific purpose and he is not in competition with others.

6. Christian perfection. (Matthew 5:46)

a. Everything that has ever been created has been created for a purpose.

b. To the degree to which the person is fulfilling the purpose for which it is created, it is perfect.

7. Step 1 - change your mind about yourself to get an accurate image.

III. Changing your feelings for emotional energy.

A. Fatigue has to do with energy. When one is exhausted, usually he has more energy left than he thinks.

B. Unless the physiological needs are met, your attention is distracted from the spiritual needs. We need to have these needs taken care of on a long term basis so that relational needs can be met. Finally, these needs being met, self-actualization is left.

1. This is fulfillment and is a promise. (Psalm 37:4)
2. When we are fulfilled it is evident and is contagious.
3. The person is fulfilled who is able to mobilize emotional energy. They will enjoy what they are doing and fulfill their task because they are fulfilling the task they were made for.
 - a. God gifts people in accordance with their calling. (Romans 11:29)
 - b. God only places someone somewhere when He gifts them. (Psalm 18:33)
 - c. We are to discover our gifts and calling and we will be satisfied in fulfilling them.

IV. Change your priorities to fit your personal priority system.

A. For a successful training program you need to see where people stand before, during, and after the program on key things you emphasize. If the man's values are the same at the beginning as they are at the end, you have not been successful.

B. This is about instilling a personal value system.

C. Identifying your personal value system. (Luke 2:52)

1. Jesus grew physically, spiritually, mentally and socially.
2. Questions.
 - a. Ask yourself what you did of your own free will spiritually that you enjoyed.
 - b. Ask yourself what you would have liked to have done.
 - c. Ask yourself what others think that you should have done.
3. One cannot be motivated to do something that is not high in one's value system. You must compare your value system to the Bible's and change yours to fit.

D. Every living thing is growing, declining or dying on the life cycle curve. This should be an exception spiritually, for death begins when growth ceases. One must set goals to grow in the value system.

V. Conclusion.

A. Discover your gifts and calling, use the emotional energy to carry it out, and set some challenging goals within your value system - change it to match the Scripture's.

B. You CAN teach an old dog new tricks.

C. As long as one can exercise creativity, that person maintains a sense of purpose. This will help one to change his feelings towards his work.

Application questions.

1. Summarize the main points the speaker addresses concerning motivation in your own words. Which point stood out to you? Why?

2. Are you engaging in the spiritual activities that you would like to or that others think you should be? What can be done about it? Explain.

3. What do you feel your gifts are? Have others confirmed this? What about your weaknesses? Meet with a few trusted friends and have them inform you about areas you might grow in and areas you might focus less on.
