

Accelerated Success: Motivation

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How do we stay motivated?

1. WE SHOULD EXPECT OPPOSITION

Nehemiah 2:10 "When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this they were very much disturbed that some would come to promote the welfare of Israel."

Matthew 16:18 (NIV) "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

- 1.1.** God wants us to succeed, but the enemy is opposed to than. We need to face the fact that there will be opposition.

I Cor. 16:8-9 "I will stay here at Ephesus. There is a real opportunity here for a great while and a worthwhile work, even though there are many opponents"

- 1.2.** There is no opportunity without opposition.

Romans 8:31 "So, what does all this mean? If God has determined to stand with us, tell me, who then could ever stand against us?"

2. WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIMING

Eccl. 8:6 "There is a right time and a right way to do everything"

- 2.1.** Something that is valuable is worth waiting for.

James 1:2-4 "For you know that when your faith is tested it stirs up power within you to endure all things. My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties, see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can! And then as your endurance grows even stronger it will release perfection into every part of your being until there is nothing missing and nothing lacking."

- 2.2.** We might not like waiting because we are impatient, but waiting for the right timing is important.

3. WE NEED TO GET THE FACTS

Nehemiah 2:12 "I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding. By night I went out through the Valley Gate to the Jackel Well and the Dung Gate examining the walls of Jerusalem which had been broken down and its gates had been destroyed by fire."

- 3.1.** Facts allows us to accurately locate where we are at and what we need to trust God for to provide.
- 3.2.** Having a plan creates security.

Proverbs 13:16 (TLB) "A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't and even brags about it!"

4. WE HAVE TO CHECK IF WE ARE MOTIVATED BY GRACE OR GREED

James 3:14 "But if there is bitter jealousy or competition hiding in your heart, then don't deny it and try to compensate for it by boasting and being phony."

- 4.1.** We need to allow God to search our hearts and examine our real motives
- 4.2.** We need be able to be honest with ourselves and be able to admit what is in our hearts and deal with it.
- 4.3.** We need to allow the Holy Spirit to use the word to wash our motive.
- 4.4.** If our hearts line up with God, his desire becomes our desire and his love with will begin to wash our motives

1 Cor. 16:14 "Let love and kindness be the motivation behind all that you do."

5. THE RESULTS OF MOTIVATION CAN MOTIVATE US

5.1. The result of motivation is success.

Joshua 1:5-9 “Be strong and confident and courageous, for you will give this people as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers (ancestors) to give them. Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do [everything] in accordance with the entire law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may prosper and be successful wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall read [and meditate on] it day and night, so that you may be careful to do [everything] in accordance with all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will be successful. No man will [be able to] stand before you [to oppose you] as long as you live. Just as I was [present] with Moses, so will I be with you; I will not fail you or abandon you. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed (intimidated), for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Sermon Discussion Guide

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OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. What has God placed in your heart that makes you passionate and motivates you?
2. Nehemiah has a wall to rebuild. What is your wall? What has God called you to do for Him?
3. Why do you want to be successful? If you are really honest with yourself, are you motivated by grace or greed?