

# “Reasons for Kingdom Rewards”

## Deuteronomy 6:1-5

**One of the ways that God motivates us is eternal rewards. Discover with us the reasons for rewards and how to earn them; and how to change your experience of eternity.**

### **Discussion [Reflection and call to action]**

- 1. Awareness:** Ideally you now understand the reality and reasons for kingdom rewards. What questions do you have? Where will you look for answers?
- 2. Appreciation:** What motivates you to consider the concept of rewards is a desire to bless/please God, a desire to advance His kingdom, and a desire to change your experience of eternity by growing your eternal retirement account. All true worship involves a sacrifice.
- 3. Assessment:** If I was a financial planner and you came to me seeking advice. I would encourage you to prepare as much as possible to be able to enjoy that season of your life. As a Bible teacher I hope to do the same. The next step is to look at your current “Spiritual retirement account” and consider the assets/value. Then to look and see what changes need to be made to enhance the account. In this case, since you will enjoy that account for eternity you want to grow it as much as possible.
- 4. Action:** Review the list of some of the ways to earn rewards. What changes will you make to start growing your spiritual retirement account?

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**subject: reasons for kingdom rewards**

**objective: earn kingdom rewards**

**I. how God motivates believers (Deut. 6:1-5)**

**A. Fear**

**1. reverent respect; honoring God; recognize His sovereignty**

**2. primary motivation in early stages of development (Gen. 2:3; Luke 5:8; Ps. 111:10)**

**B. love**

**1. primary motivation in mature stage of development (1 John 14:15)**

**C. rewards**

**1. primary motivation during the adolescent stage of development (Matt. 25:14-29; Deut. 6-8; Rev. 22:12)**

**II. real rewards for real commitment**

**A. belief determines destination (heaven or hell); behavior determines compensation (rewards)**

**B. 3 broad categories:**

**1. pleasure in heaven (Psalm 16:11; Hebrews 12:1-2)**

**2. power/position in heaven (Matthew 25:23)**

**3. possessions in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21)**

**III. how to earn God's rewards**

**A. give to those who can't give back (Luke 14:12-14)**

- B. help people who are serving Kingdom (Mt. 10:41-42)
- C. do good deeds, pray, & fast w/out seeking praise from people (Matt. 6:1-4; Matt. 6:5-6; Matt. 6:16-18)
- D. use your financial resources to advance the gospel (Matt.6:19-20)
- E. suffer persecution for Christ (Matt. 5:11-12)
- F. do a good job as if you were working for the Lord (Col. 3:22-24)
- G. show love, grace & kindness to difficult people (Luke 6:32-35)
- H. serve and lead in His church (1 Pet. 5:1)
- I. make sacrifices for the sake of the Kingdom of God (Matt. 19:28-29)

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### “Reasons for Kingdom Rewards” Deut. 6:1-5

**Intro.** God wants to motivate you to advance His Kingdom. It takes more than knowledge to produce full commitment to live for God and His Kingdom. Love for God and rewards help to motivate you to live for God and prepare for eternity. God created you for a love relationship with Him.

**Subject: Reasons for Kingdom Rewards**

**Object: Earn Kingdom Rewards**

**Context:** 4-week series @ kingdom rewards. Last week: “*reality* of kingdom rewards”

**A. How God motivates believers: God is looking for obedience resulting in His glory and our satisfaction.**

**There are 3 primary ways that God motivates His people and all are legitimate.**

**Note: Different people are motivated differently and individuals are motivated differently at varying stages of their spiritual life.**

**Deut. 6:1-5: Context:** Moses' swansong address preparing Israel to enter the PL. This portion contains the Greatest Commandment (v.5) [The Sh'ma] and shows all three forms of motivation: 1 "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, 2 that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 3 Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—'a land flowing with milk and honey.' 4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is

one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

**1. Fear [2] A reverent respect that honors God and recognizes He is Sovereign**

**a. Fear is a primary motivation in the early stages of development**

b. **Gen.2:3** God to Adam and Eve in the Garden – Don't eat of the tree or you will surely die

c. **Lu. 5:8** Peter's response to great catch early in Jesus' ministry, "Depart from me for I am a sinful man"

**Ps. 111:10 The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom** [right thinking & behavior]

d. \*\* Parent to young child, "Don't touch the hot stove or you'll get burned"

**2. Love [5] Your relationship with Christ**

**a. Love is the primary motivation in the mature stage of development**

b. **Jn.14:15** Disciples in upper room ready to graduate the 3 year training program, mature, could be motivated by love; "Since you love me, you will keep my commandments"

c. Love motivates obedience [**Dt. 6:4-7** Israel ready to enter PL after 40 years of prep].

d. \*\* Parent to mature child asks for help primarily based on motive of love

**3. Rewards:**

**a. Reward is a primary motivation during the adolescent stage of development**

i. Transition us from motivation by fear to love

b. **Matt. 25:14-29 Parable of the talents** – promised eternal rewards, **Mt. 19:21**, etc.

c. **Dt. 6-8** God seeks to motivate by love, fear & rewards -> obedience -> His glory

i. Moses reminds Israel of the blessings of obedience [reward], the curses of rebellion [fear], but it all hinges on Deut. 6:5 Love the Lord your God ...

d. \*\* Parent to growing children and young adolescents motivate with rewards such as allowance for chores.

**B. Real rewards for real commitment:**

**1. Belief determines destination (heaven or hell). Behavior (works) determines compensation (rewards).** These

a. God is committed to compensate/reward people who choose to live beyond the minimums of salvation by grace through faith [**1 Tim.5:18**]

## **2. Serve God and you will be rewarded primarily later in heaven (but also today)**

**Note:** contrast the Prosperity gospel [Heb. 11 esp. 6]

\* Stanford U. study re delayed gratification – one of the most important factors re success in life

**a. Pleasure in Heaven:** Ps. 16:11, Mt. 25:23, Heb. 12:1-2

**b. Power/Position in Heaven (without corruption of sin):**

**i. Mt. 19:28, 25:23, 28:18**

**c. Possessions – Mt. 6:19-21**

i. Heavenly treasure = secure, deposited into your account based on actions in this life

### **C. How to Earn God's Rewards:**

**Note:** Rewards are primarily rewarded after this life in Heaven to enjoy for eternity

**Note:** God promises rewards to motivate: desiring rewards is good not carnal

- 1. Serving those who cannot reciprocate (Lu. 14:12-14)**
- 2. Assisting those who represent the kingdom (Mt. 10:41-42)**
- 3. Doing good deeds without seeking praise of people (Mt. 6:1-4)**
- 4. Praying to God without seeking praise from people (Mt. 6:5-6)**
- 5. Fasting to God without seeking praise from people (Mt. 6:16-17)**
- 6. Using financial resources to advance the gospel (Mt. 6:19-20)**
- 7. Suffering “persecution” for Christ and the faith (Mt. 5:11-12)**
- 8. Doing your work unto the Lord (Col. 3:22-24)**
- 9. Showing kindness to “difficult” people (Lu. 6:32-35)**
- 10. Serving and leading in His church (1 Pet. 5:1-4)**
- 11. Sacrificing self-interest to serve the kingdom (Mt. 19:28-29)**