

Man in The Mirror

Motivation * Movement * Momentum

Ephesians 5:1-2 AMP

Therefore be imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]. And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a slain offering an sacrifice to God [for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance.

MOTIVE: SOMETHING THAT CAUSES A PERSON TO ACT IN A CERTAIN WAY, DO A CERTAIN THING.

1 Samuel 16:7 AMP

But the Lord said to Samuel, Look not on his appearance or at the height of his stature, for I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

Approval Addiction: We all want approval. We all want to feel loved and accepted. We all want to be thought of as doing or being good. What is the driving force? Who do we really seek approval from? Do we follow what people think we should do? Or do we follow what God thinks we should do? What are we reflecting? Let's be willing to look at our selves plainly and examine why we do what we do!

(((FROM PRIDE TO POWER)))

Pride is great weakness. When you and I have to puff ourselves up so much, we are truly in a position of great weakness. We will only have what we can muster. God won't partner with pride! If we want the Spirit of God working in us, we must say peace out to pride!

Philippians 2:3-5 AMP

Do nothing from factional motives [through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends] or prompted by conceit and empty arrogance. Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the others as better than and superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves].

Let each of you esteem and look upon and be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others.

Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:]

Matthew 6:1-8 Amp

Take care not to do your good deeds publicly or before me, in order to be seen by them; otherwise you will have no reward [reserved for and awaiting you] with and from your Father who is in heaven.

Thus whenever you give to the poor, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites in the synagogues and in the streets like to do, that they may be recognized and honored and praised by men. Truly I tell you, they have their reward in full already.

But when you give to charity, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

So that your deeds of charity may be in secret; and your father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Also when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward in full already.

But when you pray, go into your (most) private room, and, closing the door, pray to your Father, Who sees in secret will reward you in the open.

And when you pray, do not heap up phrases (multiply word, repeating the same ones over and over) as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard for their much speaking.

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

Galatians 1:10 AMP

Now am I trying to win the favor of men, or of God? Do I seek to please men? If I were still seeking popularity with men, I should not be a bond servant of Christ (the Messiah).

(((FROM FAILURE TO FAITHFUL)))

When we seek people more than we seek God, we will always feel like a failure! However, if we are faithful to God and his ways, we won't care or be bothered by people because we have purpose!

THIS IS WHY WE FAIL...

James 4:1-10 AMP

1 WHAT LEADS to strife (discord and feuds) and how do conflicts (quarrels and fightings) originate among you? Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily members?

2 You are jealous and covet [what others have] and your desires go unfulfilled; [so] you become murderers. [To hate is to murder as far as your hearts are concerned.] You burn with envy and anger and are not able to obtain [the gratification, the contentment, and the happiness that you seek], so you fight and war. You do not have, because you do not ask. [I John 3:15.]

3 [Or] you do ask [God for them] and yet fail to receive, because you ask with wrong purpose and evil, selfish motives. Your intention is [when you get what you desire] to spend it in sensual pleasures.

4 You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God]! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God.

5 Or do you suppose that the Scripture is speaking to no purpose that says, The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcome] with a jealous love? [Jer. 3:14; Hos. 2:19ff.]

6 But He gives us more and more grace (power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully). That is why He says, God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it). [Prov. 3:34.]

7 So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.

8 Come close to God and He will come close to you. [Recognize that you are] sinners, get your soiled hands clean; [realize that you have been disloyal] wavering individuals with divided interests, and purify your hearts [of your spiritual adultery].

9 [As you draw near to God] be deeply penitent and grieve, even weep [over your disloyalty]. Let your laughter be turned to grief and your mirth to dejection and heartfelt shame [for your sins].

10 Humble yourselves [feeling very insignificant] in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you [He will lift you up and make your lives significant].

James 4:7-10 in the Message Bible says....

“So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud NO to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet YES to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. **Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field.** Hit the bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.”

We fail because we aren't faithful to God. We fail because we haven't worked on purifying our inner life. We fail because we aren't willing to look at ourselves and ask, “what's my motivation?”

1 Peter 2:9 The Message Bible

But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you – from nothing to something from rejected to accepted.

(((SEARCH IT OUT))) This week you're encouraged to study:

James 4 Matthew 6 Philippians 2 Ephesians 5