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INCENTIVE

The wealth of the rich puts them in a position where they can afford to be callous. They lose their **incentive** to be kind.

- **Proverbs 18:23:** "The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly."

INSPIRATION

Elihu believed that **inspiration** comes from God.

- **Job 32:8:** "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding."

All Scripture is given by **inspiration** of God. This means the Scriptures come from God, not from men.

- **2 Timothy 3:16:** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

MOTIVATE, MOTIVATED, MOTIVATES, MOTIVATING

It seems that Laban was **motivated** by greed. He was interested in welcoming Abraham's servant *after* he saw the expensive presents that he gave to Rebekah.

- **Genesis 24:30:** "And it came to pass, when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well."

The reason Jacob had to flee his home was because he stole Esau's blessing, which **motivated** Esau to try to kill him.

- **Genesis 27:43-45:** "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away; Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?"

Sometimes our spirit can **motivate** us to do things.

- **Exodus 35:21:** "And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments."

Sometimes our heart can **motivate** us to do things.

- **Exodus 35:21:** "And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments."
- **Exodus 35:29:** "The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses."

It seems that Balaam was **motivated** by greed. Even though he clearly knew that God didn't want the Israelites to be cursed, he still looked for a way to curse them so he could gain the great reward that Balak had promised. (Balaam could have just told Balak that he would never consider cursing Israel because that would greatly anger God, but he didn't.)

- **Numbers 22:17-19:** "For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people. And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more. Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more."

Throughout Samson's life he was **motivated** by personal vengeance. He repeatedly sought to kill those who had wronged him in some way.

- **Judges 16:28:** "And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."

When Saul wanted to get victory over the Philistines, he tried to **motivate** his men by cursing them (just as he had done when the Ammonites invaded Jabeshgilead).

- **1 Samuel 14:24:** "And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food."

When Saul heard the women of Israel say that David had done more on the battlefield than him (which was obviously true), it seems it didn't **motivate** him to improve his skills. Instead he became jealous of David.

- **1 Samuel 18:7-9:** "And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward."

David had no desire to bring Saul to justice. The many terrible things that Saul did (including mass murder and genocide) failed to **motivate** David to inflict any sort of punishment

upon him at all. Even though Saul *slaughtered everyone in an entire town*, including the women and children, David felt bad about just cutting off part of his robe. (David even refused to kill Saul in self-defense, when Saul was trying to kill him.)

- **1 Samuel 24:5:** "And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt."

The reason David brought the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Obbedom to Jerusalem was because he heard that God was blessing Obbedom because he had possession of the Ark. (It seems the blessing was what **motivated** David.)

- **2 Samuel 6:12:** "And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obbedom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obbedom into the city of David with gladness."

One of the key factors in the construction of the second temple were the prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah. They **motivated** the Jews to resume and finish the construction.

- **Ezra 6:14:** "And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia."

In the parable of the prodigal son, the younger son's repentance was **motivated** by the fact that he was dying of

starvation and needed food, and the only way he could get it was to repent and return to his father.

- **Luke 15:17-18:** "And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,"

Since our time in this world is short, we must use what time we have left to be faithful to God and do what's right. We must not say that since life is short we might as well do whatever we want and live a life of sin. The lateness of the hour must **motivate** us to righteousness, not sin and self-indulgence.

- **Romans 13:12-13:** "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."

The church isn't doing people favors by allowing them to remain in the church while they're living lives of unrepentant sin. It would be better if the church removed them from the congregation, because that might **motivate** them to repent and turn from their sin.

- **1 Corinthians 5:5:** "To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

The doctrine of the coming resurrection and the return of the Lord Jesus Christ should **motivate** us to stop sinning and

pursue righteousness.

- **1 Corinthians 15:22-23, 34:** "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. ... Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."

Our fear of God should **motivate** us to stop sinning and walk in His ways.

- **2 Corinthians 7:1:** "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."
- **Ephesians 5:17, 21:** "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; ... Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

The promises of God should **motivate** us to lead righteous and holy lives.

- **2 Corinthians 7:1:** "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

The reason Paul rejoiced over his previous letter wasn't because it made the Corinthian church sorry, but because it **motivated** them to repent.

- **2 Corinthians 7:9:** "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made

sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing."

The Corinthian church cleared themselves in the matter that Paul brought before them. Their godly repentance **motivated** them to address the problem and do what was right.

- **2 Corinthians 7:11:** "For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

Caring for the church means rebuking them so they're filled with godly sorrow and are **motivated** to repent.

- **2 Corinthians 7:12:** "Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you."

When Paul saw the generosity of the Macedonian church, it **motivated** him to see the Corinthian church develop that same spirit of generosity.

- **2 Corinthians 8:1-2, 6:** "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. ... Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also

finish in you the same grace also."

It's good for churches to witness the good behavior of other churches and become **motivated** to be like them.

- **2 Corinthians 9:2:** "For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many."

Some false teachers are **motivated** by greed.

- **Titus 1:11:** "Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."

It's not wrong to be **motivated** by the reward that God will give to those who have faith in Christ.

- **Hebrews 10:35:** "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward."

The Word of God should **motivate** us to action. Those who ignore what it has to say are fools.

- **James 1:22-24:** "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

The doctrine of the return of Christ and the end of the world should **motivate** us to pursue holiness and godliness.

- **2 Peter 3:11-12:** "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"
- **2 Peter 3:13-14:** "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

The hope of the return of Jesus is very important. It should be a key **motivating** factor for Christians.

- **1 John 3:2-3:** "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

If the love of God truly dwells in us then we will be **motivated** to help others who are in need. (Those who are unwilling to help other people are revealing that they don't actually love God at all.)

- **1 John 3:17:** "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

The apostle John didn't believe it was materialistic or unspiritual to be **motivated** by Heavenly rewards.

- **2 John 1:8:** "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

MOTIVES, MOTIVE

When Joseph's brothers asked him to forgive them, Joseph told them they had evil **motives** for the things they had done to him.

- **Genesis 50:20:** "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

Even when Saul admitted that he sinned, he still put the blame on the Israelites and lied about his **motives**. Even his confession of guilt included lies.

- **1 Samuel 15:24:** "And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice."

When Adonijah asked Bathsheba to get him Abishag as his wife, Bathsheba didn't discern his true **motive** (which was to use Abishag to overthrow Solomon).

- **1 Kings 2:17-18:** "And he said, Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the king, (for he will not say thee nay,) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife. And Bathsheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king."

There are times when the wicked lie about their **motives** in order to fight against God's people and stop them from carrying out God's will. (The reason the enemies of the Jews were trying to stop them from rebuilding the temple was

because they hated God, not because they thought that somehow a rebuilt temple would reduce the money they received from the king.)

- **Ezra 4:14:** "Now because we have maintenance from the king's palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonour, therefore have we sent and certified the king;"

The adversaries of the Jews wanted to stop them from rebuilding the temple. However, they claimed they were trying to stop the Jews from rebelling against the king by rebuilding Jerusalem and its walls. They didn't mention what they really wanted, because rebuilding the temple of God had no impact on the king. Therefore they lied about their real **motive**.

- **Ezra 4:16:** "We certify the king that, if this city be builded again, and the walls thereof set up, by this means thou shalt have no portion on this side the river."

When Satan presented himself before God and He asked if he had considered Job, Satan attacked Job's **motives** for fearing God.

- **Job 1:9:** "Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?"

God cares about our **motives**.

- **Proverbs 17:3:** "The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts."
- **Proverbs 21:2:** "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts."

God knows the thoughts and **motives** of the wicked.

- **Proverbs 21:27:** "The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?"

If the **motives** of the wicked are evil then that makes their actions even more sinful.

- **Proverbs 21:27:** "The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?"

God cares about the reason why we worship Him. He cares about our **motives** for our acts of service to Him. (The Jews were worshiping God, but since they had wicked motives it angered Him.)

- **Isaiah 58:2, 4:** "Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. ... Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high."
- **Zechariah 7:5-6:** "Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me? And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat for yourselves, and drink for yourselves?"
- **Malachi 1:10:** "Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on

mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand."

We must be very careful about the **motives** for our prayers to God.

- **Matthew 23:14:** "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."

Jesus understands our **motives**. He sees into our heart.

- **John 6:26:** "Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled."

Sometimes wicked people hide their true intentions with **motives** that sound noble (but which are actually lies).

- **John 12:5-6:** "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein."

Festus wasn't honest about his **motives**. (The real reason he left Paul bound was because he wanted to do a favor to the Jews.)

- **Acts 25:9:** "But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem,

and there be judged of these things before me?"

- **Acts 25:14, 20:** "And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix: ... And because I doubted of such manner of questions, I asked him whether he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these matters."

Paul told the Corinthian church he was speaking the truth to them. The things he said were true and reflected his genuine **motives**.

- **2 Corinthians 1:23:** "Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth."

Not everyone who preaches Christ has good **motives**.

- **Philippians 1:15:** "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:"

Paul had no objections when Christ was preached out of bad **motives**. Instead he rejoiced that Christ was being preached. People's bad motives didn't bother him.

- **Philippians 1:15, 18:** "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: ... What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice."

Paul had nothing positive to say about those who hated the

gospel. Instead he warned that they were dangerous and were going to be destroyed, and that their **motives** were carnal and wicked.

- **Philippians 3:18-19:** "(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"