

# MOTIVATION

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- Where does our motivation come from?
- From God or the world?



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- **Heb 4:11-13**
- Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of **soul** and **spirit**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the **heart**. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

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- *Motivation* is defined as “that which moves one toward an action; that which changes, provokes, or impels our very being.” The Bible has a great deal to say about motivation. The motivation of Christians is different from that of unbelievers. For one thing, our sense of motivation or inspiration comes from God, not from the things of the world. David spoke of his motivation in his psalms: “I desire to do Your will, O my God; Your law is within my heart” ([Psalm 40:8](#)). Later he wrote, “Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you” ([Psalm 73:25](#)).

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- The world is motivated by self and the focus on self, the all-about-me syndrome, which is identified by self-determination, self-obsession, and self-worship. The Bible does not teach us to be centered on ourselves. In fact, it teaches just the opposite. Jesus said, “The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” ([Matthew 23:11-12](#); [Luke 9:48](#)). As followers of Christ, we are called to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him ([Matthew 16:24](#)). The cross was an instrument of death, and Jesus’ message to us is that only those who die to self will truly follow Him. We do that by doing nothing out of vanity and conceit, but instead considering others better than ourselves ([Philippians 2:3](#)).

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- Jesus set the example for our motivation in this life: “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work” ([John 4:34](#)). Jesus was concerned with pleasing His Father, and so should we be motivated by that same concern. He always did the Father’s will, motivated by pleasing Him through obedience ([John 8:29](#)). His obedience extended all the way to the cross where He humbled Himself and “became obedient unto death” ([Philippians 2:8](#)). Our motivation should be the same as His—the obedience by which we prove we are truly His. “If you love me, keep my commandments” ([John 14:15](#)).

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- **Jesus the Ultimate Example**
- **John 8:29** And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him
- **Phil 2:8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross



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- **Work**
- **Ecc1 9:10** Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest
- **Col 3:23** And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men
- **Prov 14:23** In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.

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- Work-
- Prov 6:6-11
- **Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.**



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- **Greed-**
- **I Tim 6:10** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows



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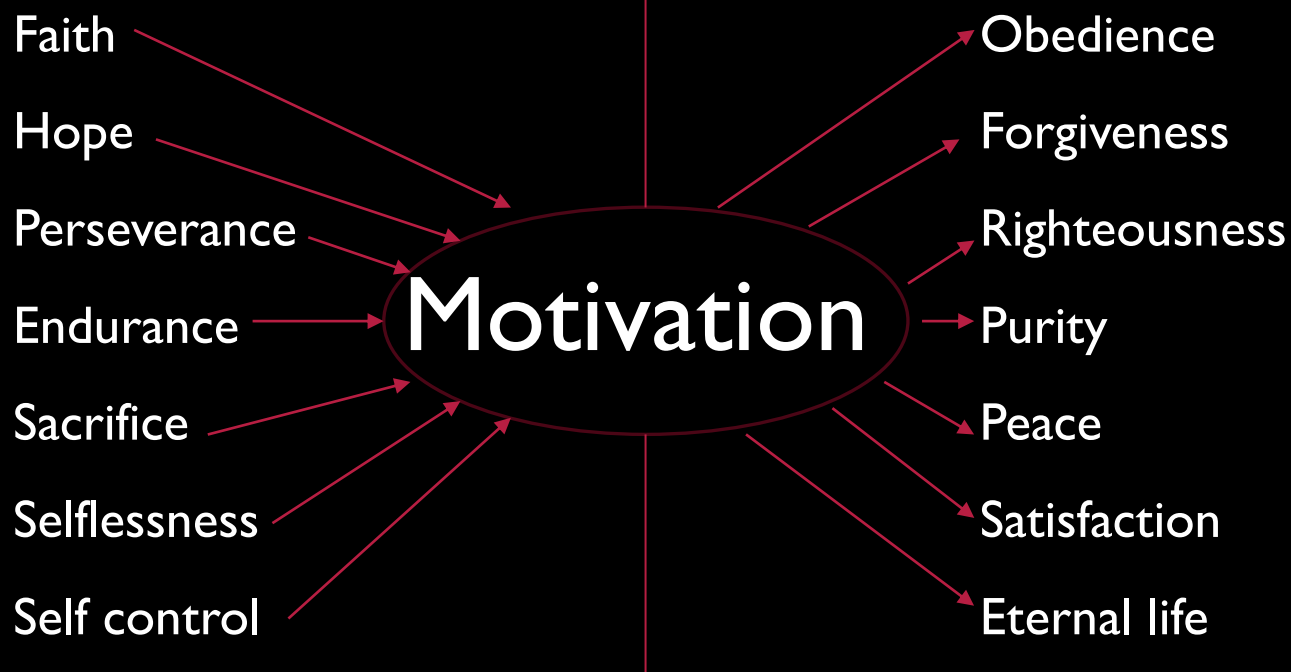
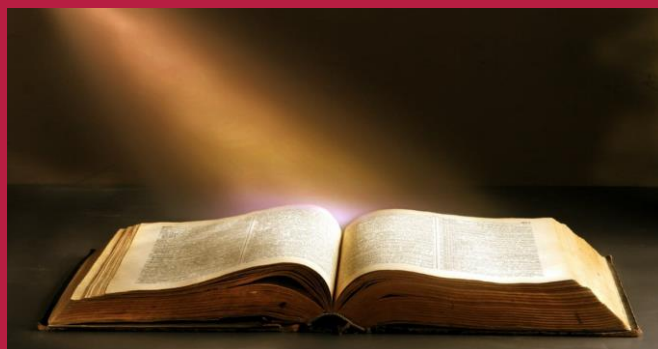
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- **Our Tongue**
- **Matt 12:36** But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment
- **James 3**



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- The apostle Paul spoke of what motivated him to endure the suffering he experienced: “For me, to live is Christ . . .” ([Philippians 1:21](#); compare [2 Corinthians 11:23-28](#)). It wasn’t money, it wasn’t fame, nor was it being the best apostle that motivated Paul. It was living for Christ that superseded everything ([Philippians 4:12-13](#)). Our motivation as believers stems from a yearning to have peace with God ([Romans 5:1](#); [Philippians 4:7](#)), to have His grace as well as hope ([Romans 5:2](#); [1 John 5:13](#)). The Christian views life through the lens of the future—being in the presence and glory of God ([John 17:24](#)), and this is our true motivation.

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- Positive examples of motivation Hebrews 11

