

Mt. Lebanon Church

20219

Sermon

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of Gods word.

Spiritual Motivation

1 Timothy 1: 12 - 17

We all face challenges in our lives. Some physical, some spiritual, all of them emotional. Each challenge will require the uniqueness of Gods strength to overcome. In spite of all, we must move only forward, we must persevere. We come to realize that we will continue to experience these difficult times throughout our Christian life here on earth. We must be careful not to allow ourselves to become overwhelmed and confused in our spiritual life. To be able to overcome this, Christians need spiritual motivation. We all have areas where we lack motivation, motivation that comes from being obedient to God. Which means, when I'm not motivated, I'm not being obedient, I'm not trusting in the promises of Gods work.

We are going to look at the scripture for God's word concerning spiritual motivation.

God's word, reminds us that the Holy Spirit directs us and shows us Gods inspired word to guide us through difficult times in our life.

1 Timothy 1: 12 – 17,....and I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me....

God knows we need motivation. Unlike ourselves he knows fear is not a motivator. Satan uses fear to decrease our hope and limit our victories.

1 John 5: 17 – 19,....all unrighteous is sin, and there is sin not leading to death....

To overcome the fear of the unrighteousness in our life, God gave us his love through his son Christ to be the motivator of our faith. The love of god was, is, and always will be our greatest motivator.

1 John 5:17,....All unrighteousness is sin.

David, Bathsheba, Uriah, Peter, all denied Christ. Because of grace and mercy, this sin did not bring about spiritual death, because of repentance unto life given, by accepting Gods pardoning grace. We as Christians are guilty of many unrighteous acts, but God is merciful and forgives.

Hebrews 8:12,....for I will be merciful to their unrighteousness....

Jerimiah 31: 31 - 34,....I will put my law in their minds, and write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people....

This passage from Jerimiah, shows the prophet explaining the Old Testament Covenant versus the New Testament Covenant which was coming through Christ.

Jerimiah was trying to motivate the children of Israel.

Paul's letter was also a letter of motivation to Timothy.

1 Timothy 1:12,.... I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me....

Through Christ, God enabled us, so that we might be able to receive his divine motivation.

All that is good and righteous in us comes from God through Christ. We are encouraged to stay close to God and listen to his voice. When we listen to, and hear what he has to say, it gives us a renewed desire to live in his will.

Romans 10:17,.... Faith comes by Hearing....

1 Timothy 1: 12,.... Because he counted me faithful....

In sin we could not serve God. By grace God judged us faithful so that by faith we may except Christ loving nature and come to serve him. We are motivated and enabled to recognize our need for forgiveness and salvation.

Romans 5: 1 – 2,....having been justified by faith, we have peace with God....

Being justified, becoming a believer, as Christians, that transaction is complete. Our status in God now will never be in doubt. Eternal salvation is accomplished once and forever it is eternal.

We stand in God's grace, we rejoice in his hope, we share in his glory.

Romans 5: 8,.... God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us....

Through Salvation.

1 Timothy 1:12,.... Putting me into the ministry....

God calls all believers into some form of ministry for him. Before we are given this ministry we are tested. Tested to see our faithfulness in our daily life as a Christian.

1 Corinthians 15:58,.... Always abounding in the work of the Lord....

1 Timothy 1: 13,.... but I obtained mercy....

When God calls us, he will first test us to see if we are faithful. Faithful in the study of his word, faithful in righteousness, honest and humble. God can do a lot through any and all people. It comes through the repentance of sin and trusting in him.

In spite of all this:

1 Timothy 1: 13,.... I obtained Mercy....

From God, Mercy is: A quality of compassion and forgiveness.

But I obtained mercy.

God does not owe us mercy. Mercy is something God gives to us through kindness and grace to those of us who do not deserve it.

Ephesians 2: 4 – 7,....but God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love....made us alive....

Gods mercy is evident in our lives at salvation. He continually shows mercy in forgiveness. His extended mercy protects and warns us of sinfulness in our lives through the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Grace and mercy preserves his people.

That is due to God through his mercy showing us understanding.

Hebrews 4: 14 – 16,....seeing then that we have this great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the son of God...

Obtain Mercy, Find Grace to help in time of need.

1 Timothy 1: 13,.... I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

Often times, as Christians, we find it hard to believe that God changes what he himself brought to past.

Hebrews 13: 7 – 9,....Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever....

We live by:

Christ the same yesterday, today and forever, which is very true of his purpose which is salvation and eternal life. But sometimes the journey to get to this end changes.

As with Paul who started under the law, with its sacrifices, which were ordained by God and although temporary in God's mind, permanent in Jewish thinking, it changed with Christ as the ultimate sacrifice, and although through the law obtained mercy, he did not allow it to become permanent in his mind.

Acts 23:1,....I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day....

Paul said: I have lived in all good conscience before God. This is all part of obtaining mercy. Although sincere to his Jewish background and being raised under the law. When God opened Paul's eyes to salvation, Paul became a Christian through the sincere word of God. Although he never acted dishonestly toward the law, he was now determined to maintain his Christianity. Through mercy and grace, aside from the law.

No matter how we were raised and taught, through God's mercy, our path and direction is changed, so that our ultimate goal to the end is salvation and eternal life. All part of God's spiritual motivation.

Spiritual motivation not only helps us obtain mercy, but brings about God's abundant grace.

1 Timothy 1: 14,....The grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant....

Each of us, not only received God's grace for salvation, but for many other things as well. Faith to follow him daily, gives us the many blessings we receive from grace through God's faith and love.

1 Corinthians 2:14,....but the natural man does not receive the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolish to him....

Before salvation we were unbelievers, consumed only with ourselves.

If we do not love God and others, then we have not received Gods abundant grace. True love, Gods love, is not just something you say, but something you do.

People who are not guided by the Holy Spirit (Unbelievers) lack Godly Spiritual Perspective. Without Gods spirit they just cannot get it.

The only way to believe the truth of God, his plan for salvation for us, is to help people who have been given that spiritual ability to believe, to understand what it means.

Worldly knowledge and human reason cannot produce faith.

We cannot have the mind of Christ if we don't have the spirit of God.

The only way to have the spirit of God is through salvation.

1 Timothy 1: 15,.... Christ came to save sinners....

Every saved sinner has great reason to glorify God for his mercy and love in his son. In Christ we will experience no greater change than being delivered from sinfulness and being brought into the family of God.

No one is born into this world by his or her own choice.

John 3:16,....for God so loved the world....

John 10:10,....I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 14:6,.... am the way, the truth, and the life.

1 Timothy 1: 16,.... In me first Christ might show all longsuffering.

Our salvation is our spiritual character. The kind of person God can trust to forgive others just as he forgave us.

Philemon 4 - 7,....that the sharing our faith may become effective by the acknowledgement of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus....

To see every good thing within the spiritual character of the believer, the Holy Spirit directs us to constantly look in these 3 directions.

1. Upward
2. Inward
3. Outward

Christ came into the world to save sinners.

#1 A spiritual man always looks upward.

In worship and devotion to God, our desire is to fellowship with God and to always seek to do his will that in me Christ might show longsuffering.

#2 A spiritual man always looks inward.

We must acknowledge and repent of everything that is contrary to his will. When we live in God's presence, we become aware of those things in our lives that is not pleasing to him. We believe in Christ for everlasting life.

#3 A spiritual man always looks outward.

As believers we are constantly seeking to help and show others the salvation of Christ. We realize that God has blessed us, so that we may be a blessing to others. We do not seek personal gain, we seek to gain that, which has eternal value.

To have balance in our spiritual life, we must constantly be aware of, and continually look to these three directions. Upward, Inward, Outward.

1 Timothy 1:17,.... Lastly, but not least. Spiritual motivation is giving to God, Honor and Glory, Forever and ever.

Giving God glory and praise, means we acknowledge he is all knowing, we repent openly before and to him, and we always present complete truthfulness in his presence. As we do this the righteousness of God himself is revealed in us through partaking of Gods divine nature.

Psalm 29: 1 – 2,.... Give unto the Lord, Worship the Lord....

God's love compels us, Gods love knows no bounds, God wants to provide us with the spiritual qualities we need to persevere. He gives us the ability to draw from his strength. Serving God should be a priority in our spiritual life. Living by faith in Gods abundant grace through the salvation of Christ is the key (To our Spiritual Motivation).

Let us pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all that God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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