

GSM

Faith's Motivation

I. Faith's Motivation

A. **Galatians 5:7**- Faith works by love

1. The Law motivated people by fear and obligation
2. The message of grace produces faith which is motivated from the love of God.
3. Love is the greatest motivator in the universe.

B. **Gen. 29:20**- Love motivated Jacob to work for seven years for Rachel. It only seemed a few days to him because of the love He had for her

C. **Ephesians 2:8-10**- We are not saved by works, but we are saved by grace through faith, unto good works. God desires for us to release our faith in works. God knew that we needed motivation as humans. He also knew that fear was not a good motivator. God gave us love to be the motivator of our faith.

D. **Ephesians 6:23**- God gives us faith with love

E. **1 Tim. 1:14; 2 Tim 1:13**- The grace of God produces faith and love in Jesus Christ. When we hear the message of grace, God gives us faith and with it love. We do what we do because we now love the Lord and are thankful to Him for His goodness.

F. **2 Cor. 5:14**- The love of God compels us- compels- Gr. **sunecho**- press together- walled in so that we have only one course of action and purpose.

G. Many people that are against the grace message are fearful that grace removes all motivation from people to live holy

1. These people only see grace as imputed righteousness. We are declared right and innocent outside of our works
2. However, we also have imparted righteousness. Our inner nature has changed. We used to be a pig in our heart and now we have a heart of a sheep.
3. **Romans 5:5**- God has shed abroad in our hearts the love of God which motivates us to worship God and live a God honoring life.

4. Legalistic people do not understand grace; therefore they have no faith or love. They are motivated out of fear and self imposed duty. This type of lifestyle will lead to secret ungodliness.

H. The more we meditate on and receive the grace of God then we will grow in faith and love. **1 Peter 2:2-3**

I. When we receive the grace of God by faith, then we will have love that motivates us to serve others.

1. **Ephesians 1:15**- Faith in the Lord, love for the saints

2. **Col 1:4**

3. **Philemon 1:5**

J. Righteousness is a shield against the enemy. **Ephesians 6:14**- We receive righteousness by faith. **1 Thess. 5:8**-However, imparted righteousness brings with it love. Faith and love is the shield of righteousness that protects us against our enemies- spiritually and naturally. Faith protects us spiritually and love protects us naturally. Love will never fail to bring us victory when people come against us.

H. **Ephesians 3:17-19**- Our initial faith in the Lord opened the door for the love of God to be shed in us, but faith is grown in the soil of love. God gave us the plant first and then gave us the soil for the plant to thrive! Our faith will thrive when we meditate on and receive the love of God towards us.

I. **1 John 4:16**- We have known and believed the love God has towards us. This is what makes a rich faith life. It is easy to believe someone who is head over heels in love with you. God love to us knows no bounds. This is the soil for our confidence in Him.

II. Boasting in the Lord's Love

A. We need to verbally acknowledge God's love for us often. We will experience God's love to the degree we acknowledge it and believe it.

B. God's love will strengthen and motivate our faith through the toughest of tests.

C. We see this in two of Jesus' disciples- Peter and John

D. Mark 14:29-31- Peter stood up at the last supper and boasted of His sacrificial love above all others.

E. But in Jesus' hour of suffering he was nowhere to be seen. Peter believed in Jesus but His could not find the kind of motivation he need to follow Jesus to the cross.

- F. However, another disciple followed Jesus all the way the cross.
What was his motivation that got him there?
- G. John boasted in the Lord's love for Him, not his love for the Lord.
1. **John 13:23**- John leaned upon the Lord's bosom. He rested in the Lord's love for him.
 2. **John 19:26**- The disciple Jesus loved
 3. **John 20:2**- The disciple Jesus loved
 4. **John 21:7**- The disciple Jesus loved
 5. **John 21:20**- The disciple Jesus loved
- H. John loved because he was first loved! **1 John 4:19** Love was the motivation that cast out the fear of being caught and sentenced to death with Jesus. Peter had faith but did not yet understand or believe the Lord's love for Him.
- I. We need to affirm over and over that we are the disciple that Jesus loves.
- J. As we progress in our Christian walk and grow in grace the emphasis will move from us to God.
1. **Song 2:16**- My beloved is mine...
 2. **Song 6:3**- I am my beloved's.....
- K. Billy loved playing marbles- nothing could tear him away, until the day he fell in love with basketball- Nothing could tear him away- until the day he fell in love with a pretty girl named Suzie- now nothing could tear him away from her. He left behind the marbles and the basketball for a greater love
- L. We will lay down the things of the world and the flesh when we fall in love with the Lord and receive His love