

GROW

AN SMBS SERIES

Lesson 1 – The Right Motives



What people want bad enough they will usually pursue hard enough to get. Part of the reason people don't change is they don't want to change, which is why Christ said, "Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6). Scripture knows this and seeks to motivate us to change in a number of ways, and all biblical motives should be leveraged in our battle with sin.

WE SHOULD BE MOTIVATED BY _____

Some argue that this is a shallow motive, but Scripture uses this motive to challenge people to live rightly (2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 1:17).

- 1. Fear of _____** – it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31).
 - _____ **salvation** – Jesus warned about the serious consequences of rejecting him (Matthew 8:12; 13:42; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30), and the Bible clearly presents hell as a warning to those in sin (Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15)
 - _____ **salvation** – although we no longer face God's wrath, we still face his discipline when we willfully choose to sin against him (Hebrews 12:3-11)
- 2. Fear of _____** – sin is not just wicked; it is stupid. The Bible warns that beyond the intentional punishment of God, there is a cost when we sin (Galatians 6:7-8). Proverbs in particular warns us that we pay a price for lust (Proverbs 5:7-14; 6:27-35), laziness (Proverbs 13:4; 20:4), a lack of self-control (Proverbs 25:28), and pride (Proverbs 16:18; 29:23).

WE SHOULD BE MOTIVATED BY _____

- 1. We ought to desire future _____.** Christ told Peter he would be richly rewarded in the life to come for following him (Matthew 19:27-30). Paul looked forward to the glories to come to offset his sufferings (Romans 8:18). Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob looked to heaven during their sojourn on earth (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16).
- 2. We ought to desire present _____.**
 - **We should desire _____.** God offers peace, but only to those who pray thankfully, think rightly, and obey faithfully (Philippians 4:6-9), and graciously removes our peace when we don't (Psalm 38:1-8).
 - **We should desire _____.** Christ told his disciples that if they obeyed, they would have joy (John 15:10-11). Both peace and joy are the result of walking in the Spirit, not the flesh (Galatians 5:22-23).

WE SHOULD BE MOTIVATED BY _____

- 1. Our love should flow from _____.** God required Israel first and foremost to love him (Deuteronomy 6:4-6). Christ himself closely tied love and obedience together (John 14:15, 21; 15:10). Paul said that it is Christ's love that controls us as we meditate on his sacrifice for us (2 Corinthians 5:14).
- 2. Our love should seek to _____ God.** God's grace and love cannot be earned, they are given. But we can and should seek to please God, as a child wants to please their parents (Ephesians 5:10; Colossians 1:10; 3:20; Hebrews 11:6; 13:16; 1 John 3:22).
- 3. Our love should seek God's _____.** This is the reason we have been created (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 1:16). If we really understood our job as image bearers of God who reflect the character of our Savior, we would be grieved over every "little" sin. We would desire to live holy lives, because we would want people to see how incredible and awesome is the God we serve.