

Avoid The Paralyzing Analysis Of The Scribes (Part 7)

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

In this writing we're reaffirming an essential characteristic of living with Jesus as your Lord – it's having ever-increasing **Christlike motives**. Possessing Christ's motivation within you is a far greater indicator that you belong to Him than all the Bible knowledge that hasn't transformed you. Even if you're unaware of your motives, they direct your attitudes and actions. That's why God's Word spends so much time urging us to transform our motives from being governed by our sin nature to being ruled by the indwelling Spirit of our Lord. In the process of yielding to the Spirit more and more, we become changed more and more into the likeness of our Lord Jesus (see 2Corinthians 3:18). Let's contrast the process of how motives affect the attitudes and actions of individuals who aren't Spirit-indwelted (sinful motives are impelled by self-will) and those who are (Christlike motives are impelled by His love):

Sinful Motives

1. Our sin nature ↓
2. Our mind, will and emotions ↓
3. Our attitudes and actions

Christlike Motives

1. Holy Spirit ↓
2. Our spirit ↓
3. Our mind, will and emotions ↓
4. Our attitudes and actions

***"All a person's ways seem pure to them,
but motives are weighed by the LORD" (Proverbs 16:2).***

Your sin nature is an incredible deceiver. It can make you feel "self righteous" even if you're holding onto unconfessed sin. But from the moment you became *genuinely* born again, the Holy Spirit began the process of sanctification, being made holy for God's use. He exposes your sin nature and transforms your motives from sin nature-dominated to the pure and loving motives of our Lord Jesus (see Colossians 3:9,10). The more resolute determination you have to become like our Lord Jesus by His grace, the faster you find your motives being changed by the Holy Spirit via your spirit. Sometimes you just need to be urged onward by someone whose motivation toward the Lordship of Jesus is something you want for yourself. In Saga 2 we mentioned our friend Karl, whom we'd asked to give us a spiritual review at the retreat center.

We knew Karl before either he or we followed our Lord Jesus. But after Karl was born again, his excited motivation about loving and obeying our Lord Jesus annoyed Mike so much that he scoffed, "Karl doesn't stir his coffee without talking about Jesus." Shortly after we became followers of our Lord Jesus, Mike was sitting with Karl and burst into tears. He confessed that he wished he had Karl's deep devotion to Jesus. Even as those words of longing came out of his mouth, Mike was changed with a love and fervor for Jesus that has only grown!

In **Reality 3**, "Being the Reality of Jesus to a Wicked World", we wrote a section entitled "Your Reason **"Why"** Matters To Your Heavenly Father". When you enter the New Covenant which our Father offers you in Christ, you are being invited to live in Covenant oneness with the divine. You have been purchased by Jesus' blood to do Father's will throughout your life as you stay in fellowship with Him and our Lord Jesus. But keep in mind that it's not what you do or don't do that is as vital as why you do what you do or don't do. And in Christ your most preeminent **why** must be, **"Father, place me and use me where I can bring You the most glory."** Any motive short of this puts your motives above His motives for you.

Having your Father's glory as your prime motive, as your reason **why** you do something, answers **why** you live where He wants you, **why** you work where you do, **why** you use your spare time as you do. It's this **why** that identifies you as your Father's child in union with Jesus, intentionally living to bring Him glory versus just being a religious Christian living for your own motives and goals. If the purpose of **why** your major decisions haven't had the goal of glorifying your Father or fulfilling His will, then repent and start living with the Holy Spirit's **grace with purpose**, guided and empowered by Him out of love for your Lord.

"I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to reward each person according to their ways, according to what their deeds deserve"

(Jeremiah 17:10; see also Revelation 2:23).

Learn a lesson from the Israelites' misguided motivation that lacked God's motives:

Many Bible teachers recount the Israelites' journey from Egypt to the Promised Land as beginning with this: *"God heard their groaning and He remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob"* (Exodus 2:24) — as if God had forgotten His covenant! God's motive ran deeper than just freeing His people from their misery. He keeps His promises, and He was motivated by a prophecy He had given centuries earlier to His faithful servant Abraham: *"Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there"* (Genesis 15:13). Then God reassured Abraham: *"On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, 'To your descendants I have given this land.'"* (Genesis 15:18-20 defines the land God promised Israel forever, a promise He repeats in Genesis 13:15 and Exodus 32:13).

God's greater and more divine motive to free Israel from their shackles was His plan to take them to the land He promised their forefathers forever. During their exodus from Egypt the Israelites got themselves in a lot of trouble through grumbling. Their misguided motivation didn't align with God's motives. Some wanted to return to Egypt, while others wanted a "god" they could see, like a gold calf, and still others unabashedly pursued sexual sin. Yet the confident motives of faithful Joshua and Caleb aligned with God's (see Numbers 14) and enabled them and their families to reach the Promised Land.

What should you take-away from this? Our heavenly Father has a divine plan to use you to fulfill His purposes which He prepared in advance for you (Ephesians 2:10). You need to have confidence that He intends to use you for divine purposes. Only your ignorance or rebellion prevents you from being motivated by His purposes for you. Remember, **if** the Holy Spirit is within you, He is THE source 🖐️ for you serving under the Lordship of Jesus, 🖐️ for revealing your heavenly Father's will, 🖐️ for fulfilling His purposes with His guidance and power. Does this describe you???

Why would you want to know Father's purposes for your life? Before you placed your trust in the shed blood of our Lord Jesus as atonement for your sins, were you were fully aware of your own sinful depravity and your complete inability to pay the penalty for your sins? If so, then **after** you were *genuinely* born again, your loving gratitude motivates you to bring glory to your heavenly Father. When someone asks you, you can clearly explain to them **why** you live to bring glory to your Father in the grace of our Lord Jesus.

If you've left the religious establishment with the motive to glorify your heavenly Father, don't sin by looking back with longing. Jesus warns the Lordship-committed, *"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God"* (Luke 9:62). In essence He is telling those who would be true to His Lordship, ***"When you leave religion for the Kingdom, lock the door behind you."*** Too many who have left the religious mire with misplaced motives look back, especially missing the crowd and the social activities and whatever made them feel good under the steeple.

Our Heavenly Father's Divine Purpose Is To Restore The Hebraic Foundations

If you've confirmed with the Holy Spirit that our Father is restoring what scribal theology eliminated through anti-Semitism and Hellenism, then you have a responsibility to align your motives with His. Be resolute in having the Holy Spirit change your motives, with glorifying your Father your highest motive through the Lordship of Jesus!

The Hebraic foundations and the Kingdom are built on the core relationships you have with our Father and Lord Jesus, your marriage and family (if this is your situation), and your fellowship family. The relational priorities flow from the center outward. (For more about these relationships please read Volume 4 of *Restoring The Early Church: Our Father Is Restoring Hebraic Relational Priorities.*)

The Core Kingdom Relationships



"For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1Samuel 16:7b).

Here are some points to guide your motivation and keep you from looking back. Be sure to look to the Holy Spirit to guide you through your spirit. It's the Holy Spirit Who gives the Lordship-committed **grace with purpose** to live out these four attributes:

- 1. That your life revolve around the Headship of Lord Jesus in bringing glory to our heavenly Father through doing His will in loving obedience.** (John 15:5-8; Ephesians 1:15-23)
- 2. That you live repentantly by grace and encourage each other in love so that communal righteousness exists in your home, ensuring that our Father will hear and answer your prayers.** (Psalms 34:14,15; Ephesians 4:15,16)
- 3. That you would diligently seek the Holy Spirit's *rhema* so that by the Spirit you can specifically carry out your Father's will.** (John 16:13; Romans 8:14)
- 4. That the aroma of Jesus would be manifested in you beginning with His love, forgiveness and compassion even for those who do you harm.** (Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 5:44)

We want to emphasize again the four criteria for authentic biblical fellowship that supports your faith walk. Don't let yourself settle for anything less:

1. Your fellowship with others must spur you on to glorify our Father and Jesus through praise, worship, and living testimony (1Corinthians 10:31).
2. Your fellowship with each other must spur you to grow in Christ's likeness, especially in His unending love (see Philippians 2:12).
3. Your shared fellowship must spur you toward repentance and the narrow gate (Matthew 7:13; 1Thessalonians 5:12).
4. Your fellowship as extended spiritual family must spur you to reveal Jesus to the lost in your daily lives (2Corinthians 5:18,19).

"When you leave religion for the Kingdom, lock the door behind you."

If you've left the religious establishment and are motivated to experience the relational priorities our heavenly Father is restoring, then you need to be absolutely confident about your own motivations. Understanding your motives will help keep you from looking back as well as assist you in moving forward. Consider again the ways these five groups embrace truth:

- **Innovators** (2% who follow Jesus): This minority hungers to become like their Lord and to do His Father's will. Out of love for Jesus they are willing to yield themselves and all they have in order to follow in His steps. Their lives are transparent and they are humbly open about their own flaws and weaknesses.
- **Early Adapters** (12%): These people are inspired by Innovators to follow the Innovators' purpose and pattern of love-grounded obedient trust. In turn, the Early Adapters are in a position to influence and inspire others to press on in like manner — even folks who might shy away from Innovators.
- **Early Majority** (33%): This group doesn't want to be the first to respond to the Spirit as Innovators do, nor do they want to be the last to join in. But they're open to Early Adapters influence.
- **Late Majority** (33%): These individuals wait for institutional endorsement before letting themselves be inspired to make any changes in their spiritual walk.
- **Laggards** (20%): These are people who won't allow themselves to be changed no matter what truths are presented to them. They consistently resist spiritual growth or change. In the second generation of a faith community or ministry, the laggards take over leadership and discard reliance on the Holy Spirit. They begin to compromise with the ways of the world and to measure success by worldly standards.

If you're an Innovator and are out of the religious establishment, it may take time for others to join you. It can be very lonely for a while until others, such as Early Adapters and Early Majority, leave organized religion and join you. The issue for you is: Will you have already prepared yourself to help them live out the relational priorities our Father is restoring? In other words, have you connected yourself fully with His divine purposes, or are you entertaining misguided motivations like the Israelites leaving Egypt?

There's little chance of the Late Majority and Laggards leaving the religious establishment. But you must be careful that Satan doesn't send them to you to entice you back into various practices concocted by scribal theologians. You must be **Holy Spirit-certain** about your faith walk, both for yourself and your household. And know that the extended spiritual family of a fellowship of homes is summed up in homes possessing the same Spirit-instilled motivations!

Finally, picture this. ***If*** Christianity had embraced the Hebraic foundations from the beginning, then husbands and fathers would be disciplined to apply God's commands to their home life. Home fellowships would be united under the Lordship of Jesus and have unified applications of God's Word to guide their fellowship. And by applying God's Word and recognizing the wisdom and divine blessing that comes with putting it into practice, they might even influence decisions in the government. But this foundational practice was eliminated by scribal theology and Nicolaitan domination—producing chaos from home front to government!

Life in this nation can't keep plunging into deeper chaos and discontent forever. Now is the time to seek and embrace all the transformation into Christ's character that's possible before the darkness of chastisement is all around you. Your confidence must be in our Lord Jesus, and your peace can only come from Him. Becoming like Him is your strength and your song!

Mike & Sue