

Excel Still More: Grow in your Motivational Life (1 Corinthians 10:31)

- Paul uses the phrase “*excel still more*” (2 times: 1 Thess. 4:1, 10) to encourage a vibrant, continuous effort and action to abound in our spiritual growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- One of the primary areas we all need to keep growing in is our motivational life. Motivation is at the heart of all we think, say, feel and do. It is the “*why*” for everything, yet often we don’t give enough time and attention to its development.
- Four foundational truths are helpful to remember:
 - a) God created motivation since He is “*the Maker of all things*” (Isa. 44:24)
 - b) God is the greatest motivator since everything is providentially controlled by Him (Rom. 11:36; Dan. 4:35)
 - c) God will hold us accountable for our motivations (1 Cor. 4:3-5; Rom. 2:16)
 - d) We are always motivated by something or someone as we can never do anything without a motivation.
- One motivation that stands out as ultimate is the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31). It is the purpose of our creation (Isa. 43:7) and are called to “*please Him in all respects*” (Col 1:11)
 - In the Old Testament, the word “*glory*” (kabowd or kobed) describes the weightiness or gravitas of something
 - In the New Testament, the word “*glory*” (doxa) expresses an honorable estimation of someone’s worth or value
- A disciple of Jesus Christ is one who lives first and foremost for the glory of God and this motivation is one in which we must learn to “*excel still more*”. How can we grow in this motivation?

1. Let God’s worthiness dominate your heart

- While value and worth from a human perspective is always in the eye of the beholder, God’s isn’t. He is of infinite worthy whether recognized by anyone or not.
 - His glory is “*great*” 90Ps. 138:5; “*above the earth and heaven*” (Ps. 148:13) and “*eternal*” (1 Pet. 5:10)
 - He is called “*the Majestic Glory*” (1 Pet. 1:17); the “*King of glory*” (Ps. 24:7-10); the “*God of glory*” (Acts 7:2); the “*Lord of glory*” (1 Cor. 2:8); the “*Father of glory*” (Eph. 1:17) and the “*Spirit of glory*” (1 Pet. 4:14)
 - The glory of God is the sum total of all His infinite excellence and praiseworthiness put on universal display.
- Romans 11:36 teaches us three things about God’s glory:
 - a) He is the source of all things (“*from Him*”). God is the Creator, designer and provider of all things.
 - b) He is the sovereign over all things (“*through Him*”). There is nothing outside of God’s plan or control as He perfectly orchestrates everything in His universe (Eph. 1:11; Prov. 16:4; Heb. 1:3)
 - c) He is the spotlight of all things (“*to Him*”). Everything exists for Him. He’s the goal, objective and centerpiece of everything. It all “*by Him for and for Him*” (Col. 1:16)

2. Let godly worship drive your heart

- Everyone worships, but not all worship the only true and living God. Sin has corrupted our worship so that we all “*fall short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23)
 - Worship belongs exclusively to the one true and living God (Lk 4:8)

- Any other kind of worship is idolatry and we are warned to “*guard ourselves from idols*” (1 Jn. 5:21). We may not bow down to carved up wooden beams, but there are plenty of functional gods to bow to (money, addictions, possessions, education, work, etc.)
- It’s hard to hear God say things like this to His people: “*O sons of men, how long will My honor become a reproach?*” (Psalm 4:2)
- How can we make God’s glory the driving motivation of our life?
 - Let your worship be vertically all-consuming (Matt. 22:37; “*do all to the glory of God*”). Be intentional about how you marinate this truth into your life (stay in God’s Word, ask God for a glory-driven life; confess your sins; memorize 1 Cor. 10:31, etc). Be on the alert for the number one glory hog (“*the flesh*”) that craves all the focus, time, energy and resources.
 - Let your worship be horizontally comprehensive: Worship is far more than a Sunday service experience, it’s a commitment to worship the Lord in every aspect of life (“*whether you eat or drink or whatever you do*”). This includes your thinking, reacting, speaking, emotions, attitudes, actions.