

POD Teaching Session 6

Hope/Blessings (God's Reward Standards)

Learning Modules:

- A. Learn the Basis of Human and Christian Motivation.
 - B. The Biblical Doctrine of Eternal Rewards and Clearing up Misconceptions.
 - C. Principles for Living to receive your full Inheritance/Blessings.
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Session 6 Module A

The Basis of Human and Christian Motivation

Learning Objectives:

- To grasp the eternal significance of the way you live.
 - To gain a pattern for Holy living by observing how Jesus began His ministry.
 - What is the Basis for Human and Christian Motivation?
 - To gain a greater appreciation and perspective on the Doctrine of Hope.
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➤ The Eternal Significance of Godly Living

What we are going to study is not new theology; it has been part of Christian beliefs and teaching from the first century on. What do the greats of church history such as Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Wesley and Spurgeon all have in common? They all earnestly believed in and hoped for eternal rewards.

There are literally hundreds of verses in the Bible dealing with rewards. A brief survey shows that Jesus, Paul, John, Peter, James and the author of the book of Hebrews all taught on this doctrine.

By the time you're done with this session and absorbing all the suggested resources, my hope is you'll approach daily life in a dramatically different way. You will begin to live with an unshakeable certainty that everything you do today matters forever.

Luke 14:12-14 Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be **blessed**. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” NIV

What did Jesus words reveal to His astonished audience when they heard these words? **God will repay you for good work after you are dead emphasizing if the work is for a person who cannot repay you.**

His words revealed that when you do a worthy deed for a person who cannot repay you:

1. You will be **repaid**.
2. Your payment will come in the **next life**.
3. When you receive it you will be **blessed**.

You should cultivate this perspective (Eternal vs. Temporal):

Our life time (Temporal)



Eternity

Jesus taught what happens inside the dot determines everything that happens on the line (Eternal).

Another way to view this: Our life span is equivalent to 40 minutes when compared to 1,000,000 years in eternity.

Jesus wants you to know that the positive consequences of your actions and beliefs today can change your eternity in astounding and wonderful ways – and He doesn’t want you to waste another minute believing otherwise.

“If this is true it changes everything for me!”, “I can’t believe I’ve prepared for our children’s future and my old age without giving a thought to my real future!”, “I’ve always thought about finishing well, but it turns out that death is just the starting gate!” anonymous

“Your choices on earth will have direct consequences on your life in eternity.”Bruce Wilkinson

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.” Jim Elliott

“It is more blessed to give than receive.” Paul of Tarus Acts 20:35

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.” Jesus Christ Rev 22:12

When Jesus formally began His ministry, His audience was “astonished” (Matthew 7:28). In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus made it clear that there is great blessing in heaven for the faithful. **“For indeed your reward is great in heaven.”** Mt. 5:23. In those eight words, Jesus reveals why you and I can rejoice, even in the worst circumstances. Why? Because there is a direct connection between something you do or endure while on earth for the sake of the kingdom and something “great” He will bless you with in heaven.



Jesus isn't asking you or me to enjoy misery on His behalf. Instead He's saying that the consequences in heaven for certain actions on earth will be so wonderful that simply knowing they're coming – and knowing that they will be great – can transform how we live now. Yes, and even create spontaneous outbursts of joy! 😊

➤ See the pattern of how Jesus began His ministry (As “Royal Priest’s it’s a pattern for us as we seek to live a holy life):

1st Jesus was baptized with the Holy Spirit. **“it is fitting for us (priests) to fulfill all righteousness.”** Mt. 3:16 **the Spirit came upon* Him.** *epi = for super natural empowerment. Remember Session 4 regarding the baptizium of the Holy Spirit!

2nd Jesus dealt with Satan in the wilderness (the three temptations) Matthew 4:1-11
The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life (1John 2:16)

3rd He began to preach: **“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”** Mt.4:17 SIS 4 a call to obedience by turning from the world’s way and turning to God for His provision.

4th He then recruited His disciples: **“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”** Mt.4:19 SIS 1 The Call. **“go and make disciples”** i.e. participate in kingdom building, the great commission.



5th He then delivered the Sermon on the Mount starting with the Beatitudes. There He reveals nine blessings or motivations for holy living. Matthew 5:1-12

What is the significance of this sequence? Observations? We must do the same if we want to have a ministry as Christ’s disciples i.e. deal with Satan, repent, follow Jesus and “go and make disciples” ! Then we can look forward to the many blessings that God promises to the faithful. This is the “Gospel (good news) of the kingdom” which Jesus preached.

What are the Beatitude blessings? the kingdom of heaven is theirs, comfort, inherit the earth, satisfaction, receive mercy, shall see God, called sons of God, theirs is the kingdom of heaven, great reward in heaven.

Were any of these blessings conditional? Yes, All of them!!!

What blessing did He repeat twice? the kingdom of heaven is for those who are poor in spirit and persecuted for the sake of righteousness Why? Because it is all about eternity and God's kingdom. It is for the humble who recognize their true spiritual condition of pride and self-sufficiency, and are broken over their need to cast themselves upon His mercy. The kingdom comes with great cost but has eternal reward.



The Beatitudes are the radical new order of blessedness initiated by the new covenant signed in the blood of Jesus. They are not the Scriptural equivalent of your mama's admonition to "be sweet." They outline the new way of the kingdom that Jesus said we should seek above all else (**Matthew 6:33**). It is a tall order to be like Jesus; like His dependence, His compassion, His humility, and His longing for the Father's glory.



The Beatitudes are conditional promises of blessing. Letting Jesus work His character in us is the condition; blessedness is the promise. Pray for yourself, that you will enjoy the blessing of being the person God wants you to be, as God molds you in the character of His beloved and well-pleasing Son. Note: Satan will oppose you!

➤ What is the Basis for Human Motivation?

Motivation is a subject of intense interest. Seminars and self-help materials abound. Much appeals to our material instincts, promising success, substance and security. The Christian is called to live a distinctive lifestyle but faces the same testings, trials and trauma as unbelievers. What is, or should be, our reaction to life's tensions? Where does the motivation to "endure patiently" or "tough it out" come from?

Hope is the Key to motivation:

Romans 5:3-5 we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. NIV

Motivations' elements (each building on the other):

Truth → **Conviction** → **Hope** → **Motivation** → **Discipline**
 ("Hope in") (Our Value System) ("Hope for"/Profit) (Motivation) (Behavior/Obedience)

These five motivation concepts form a directional chain. Motivation ultimately flows out of our truth system(worldview/beliefs) or what we "hope in". What we consider to be true is the basis of our convictions or value system. This, in turn, is what we consider to be gainful or profitable, and this is what we "hope for". Our hope, in turn, motivates us to discipline ourselves to behave in a certain manner.

Refer now to the Resource Guide “The Motivation Matrix” and follow along.

Hope In: Everyone in life operates on the basis of a truth system. Our truth system or worldview/beliefs and its source define our values and our values define our hope. Therefore, the source of our truth system is what we ultimately “hope in” (Ps. 25:3; 45:5; 146:5; et. al.).

“Truth” as defined by various Worldviews:

1. Truth may be absolute or relative.
2. Truth may be the opinion of the majority.
3. Truth may be determined by reason.
4. Truth may be that which is defined by a charismatic leader or guru.
5. Truth is absolute and is defined by the Bible (The Word of God).

Therefore “hope in” is the foundation of all our motivation. It must be based on Biblical truth for it to endure forever! What we “hope in” determines the nature of what we “hope for”. If we place our hope in God, then He determines and defines what is gain, reward, profit or blessing. Our clarion (loud and clear) call is to have complete harmony between God’s will and our will. This requires the reshaping process spoken of in Romans 12 and is mandatory for the achievement of proper Biblical motivation. We discussed this thoroughly in Session 4 (Mind Renewal (Solomon’s temple).

Romans 12:2 do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. NASB95



Enduring motivation must always flow from the source of what you hope in.

Our Conviction/Value System: What we value is a product of our “truth system”. We hold these dear because if achieved they will provide the means by which our needs will be met. Things we value, such as:

- Money, power, intelligence, sex, good looks, accomplishments, and etc.
- **Or** from a Biblical perspective; fulfillment of God’s promises, intimacy with God, eternal rewards, fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), the mind of Christ, Fear of the Lord, pleasing God, fellowship of believers, hearing God’s voice, et al.



It has been said the best barometer of our value system is our calendar and checkbook. These reveal what we truly treasure.

Hope For: The desire to accrue benefit from effort forms the basis of motivation. That is, what we “hope for” is gain, reward, profit or blessing!



Hope always lies in the direction of blessing, gain or profit.

Nowhere in the bible is one called to an effort which is purely sacrificial ; underlying the command is always the hope of reward. “Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame, for the joy set before Him.”(Heb. 12:2) The desire to accrue benefit from effort is part of God’s nature and became part of our nature when we were created in His image. (Luke 6:35-38; Mt. 19:27-29; Mt. 5:11,12). The problem is not allowing God, the One we hope in, to determine what we hope for.

Fundamentally, at the root of what we “hope for” is to have our God given needs met. As we discussed in Session 3B (The Gospel of God’s Grace) we all have inherent needs, both physical and psychological. **These needs are legitimate and God implanted.** It is His intention to satisfy them in legitimate ways by drawing us to Himself. If you don’t give the desire for gain legitimate expression, it will find illegitimate expression as prompted by the unholy trinity (Session 3B).

Faith and love spurred on by hope:

Colossians 1:4-5 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; **because of the hope laid up for you in heaven**, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel. NASB95

Hope, as used in Scripture, is not difficult to define. It appears as both a noun and verb, and conveys the absolute certainty of future good. It is one of the three timeless and enduring eternal values (faith, hope and love -- 1 Cor. 13:13).

Even faith itself is defined by hope. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Heb. 11:1

Hope helps calm the emotions: Hebrews 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast, NASB95 **(context is God will surely bless you and multiply you vs.14, sealed with two unchangeable things; a promise and an oath from God.)**



Ponder then test this statement: Love, guilt, fear, obligation, and pain avoidance are valid motivators but only profit can sustain, all other motivators will give way in a time of testing.

Discipline/Performance/Behavior/Action: We are now motivated to discipline ourselves or act and behave in certain ways so that what we “hope for” will be achieved.

So we strive in many ways such as:

- Work, strict training, reading, study, higher education, diet, exercise, primping, recreation , thrill seeking, pleasure seeking, people pleasing, tolerance, enabling, hoarding, and deeds of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21), etc. These if practiced in excess could lead to addictive behaviors such as drugs, alcoholisms, pornography, etc.
- In addition Christians may practice: Offering your body as a living sacrifice, enduring hardship for the sake of others, persecution for your faith, prayer, evangelism, disciple making, seeking God’s face, fasting, church attendance, small group interaction, Bible study, meditation on the Word , scripture memorization, lead an examined life, holding yourself accountable to others, attending the P.O.D. teaching sessions, and so on.



1 Timothy 4:7-10 On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God,..... NASB95



Recall from Sessions 3 on Grace and 4 on Mind Renewal that the Spirit of God can be easily quenched if we choose to get our needs met apart from Him. This is what scripture calls “walking after the flesh” or “being double minded”. On the other hand we can choose to walk in the spirit with single minded devotion to God by placing our hope in Him, by seeking intimacy with Him, and by cultivating an eternal perspective of delayed gratification. We know that His promise of blessings for obedient living are steadfast and true and will last forever.



Hope always lies in the direction of Profit, Gain, Reward or Blessing.

REMEMBER: 1 Cor. 8:1 “Knowledge puffs up but love builds up”. Studying the Bible is important, but the goal is never knowledge for the sake of knowledge. Being a disciple of Jesus Christ means that we learn from Him, fellowship with Him, and obey everything He commands us. Love is the goal thru obedient holy living.

APPLICATION NEXT STEPS: As you review this session in your own personal quiet time, with your POD mates and others, ask yourself; What is God saying to me? and How am I going to respond? Begin now to look for opportunities to start sharing what you have learned with others. That is disciple making. Take advantage of the transformative power of prayer, journaling, writing out personal application/next steps, and memorizing key scriptures. Also, be sure to read the articles and one or more of the books mentioned in the resource guide at the end of each of the seven sessions.

KEY TAKE-AWAYS AND MY PERSONAL APPLICATION/NEXT STEPS:

Scripture I will commit to memorize from this session:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.