

THE GREATEST MOTIVATOR OF ALL... RESPECT**29/8/10**

The greatest battle we will ever face as a Christian; is the fight to maintain the wisdom that God has given us. The challenge is between God's values and ours, God's will and our will, God's truth verses our natural understanding. There is only solution that guarantees the result that we all pray for... and God who knows the end even before the beginning has given us this wonderful solution... BUILD RESPECT FOR GOD.

Natural verses Spiritual. *The time in our life seems to be made up of two major commitments... work and play. One is often seen as pleasant and the other is often seen as an unwelcome duty. Our genuine service to God is shaped by the same two mind sets. Only those with a healthy respect for God will actually enjoy a motivated walk in the Lord's service, otherwise it will be an unpleasant duty... not the actions that blessings come from.*

HEB 4:1 Let us therefore **fear** (show respect), lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. *This solution cuts through every confusion and every doubt.*

God's respect verses our version of respect. *The fear and respect of God has two faces, one is healthy and the other very harmful. We can cringe in fear and feel almost paralyzed with our ability to think or act in a suitably Christian way. Alternatively, a healthy attitude creates a respectful awe of God and his power, which produces a strong desire to serve God and please him (this comes from a healthy sense of self preservation and a willingness to make personal sacrifices to serve God). From this develops love, faith, patience, etc.*

PRO 1:7 The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge: **but fools** (those who don't develop a healthy respect for God) **despise wisdom and instruction.** *Those who don't make the effort to build respect for God are considered to be foolish and effectively can betray the work of the Holy Spirit and God's people.*

What is the greatest enemy of respect? *Lack of respect has only one driving force... pride (which appears as lack of obedience to God's laws and/or spiritual laziness). Pride is the product of natural thinking... a lack of commitment to God's encouragement.*

JAM 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. *Personally give you strength.*

PRO 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low (spiritually): **but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.**

The greatest motivator... ever!! *A healthy respect for God is the greatest motivator we can employ. It leads to certainty, the ability to make lasting commitments, the strong desire to keep overcoming. An unhealthy respect for God leads to continual cycles of boom and bust... motivated one day and failing the next. This is usually driven by a guilty conscience with no assurance of meeting the Lord... we can almost feel obliged to earn our salvation through good works. Our all knowing and ever loving God has provided a solution to this normal human failing, because low spiritual self esteem works against him as much as it does against us.*

JAM 3:17 But the **wisdom** that is from above is first **pure** (true), then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be **intreated** (easy to conform to), full of mercy and good fruits, without **partiality**, and without hypocrisy.

JAM 1:5 If any of you lack **wisdom**, let him **ask** of God, that giveth to all **men** liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. *Ask for wisdom and it will be given in large quantities... without criticism. Remember, God has provided a simple solution, even before you needed to ask him.*

The wisdom that enables us to build respect in God. *Those who have a strong respect for God develop an obligation to obey the terms of the New Testament. If we choose to respond to the leading of the Spirit, we will be motivated to produce good works. This must be forthcoming if God's will for us is to be accomplished. This doesn't earn us our salvation, but it enables God's life saving plans to be completed.*

1JOH 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an **understanding**, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. This is a great summary of how respect can work in our favour.*

LUK 21:15 For I will give you a mouth and **wisdom**, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. *Once again, there is a wonderful personalized promise of the results our simple faith.*

The conclusion of building respect for God. *Respect for God builds respect for your fellow church members. Your love and actions towards them will be no less than your actions towards God!!*

LUK 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt **love** the Lord thy God with **all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy strength**, and with **all thy mind**; and thy neighbour as thyself.

ECC 12:13 Let us hear the **conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God**, and keep his commandments: for this is the **whole duty** of man. *The greatest giver of wisdom summarizes our position perfectly... RESPECT GOD.*