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October 01, 2006

If You're [Not] Having Fun, You're Doing Something Wrong

(How to maintain your joy and motivation over time)

(SERIES: THE MAXWELL HOUSE SERIES: 03 of 03)
by Dr. David Foster

“... the joy of the LORD is your strength.” (Neh 8:10 NIV)

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Phil 2:1-4 NIV)

The Gathering's MISSION is . . .

. . . to create **environments** and **experiences**
where real people connect to God and each other
for the purpose of **changing the world.**

Our simple 3-step strategy for changing the world:

1. We will **gather** for weekly worship **celebrations.**

“Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.” (Psa 150 NIV)

2. We will **grow** together, up, out, and more through daily **collaboration.**

3. We will **give** our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor to **create** solutions and systems that glorify God and advance the good motivated by **love** and the belief that **every life matters to God.**

What's your motivation?

Sign up for the weekly Dave Rave @ fosteringhope.com

I do what I do because **I feel guilty if I don't.**

“Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it--I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while--yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. **GODLY SORROW BRINGS REPENTANCE THAT LEADS TO SALVATION AND LEAVES NO REGRET,** but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.” (2 Cor 7:8-11 NIV)

I do what I do because **I want to obligate God to be good to me.**

“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law. What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about--but not before God. What does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. **NOW WHEN A MAN WORKS, HIS WAGES ARE NOT CREDITED TO HIM AS A GIFT, BUT AS AN OBLIGATION.** However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.” (Rom 3:28-4:5 NIV)

Option A: “*I obey therefore I'm accepted*”

Option B: “*I'm accepted therefore I obey*”

I do what I do because **I am loved and have a new motivation.**

“So there is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving Spirit--and this power is mine through Christ Jesus--has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death. We aren't saved from sin's grasp by knowing the commandments of God because we can't and don't keep them, but God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours--except that ours are sinful--and destroyed sin's control over us by giving himself as a sacrifice for our sins. So now we can obey God's laws if we follow after the Holy Spirit and no longer obey the old evil nature within us.” (Rom 8:1-4 TLB)

I do what I do because **I'm learning to trust the revolutionary teachings of Jesus.**

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. **THEN YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE SONS OF THE MOST HIGH, BECAUSE HE IS KIND TO THE UNGRATEFUL** and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:32-38 NIV)

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