

Feeling the Tug (Sermon in Song)

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Introduction: Without proper motivation the Christian will fail.

A. The Hebrew Christians were once motivated to face persecution with joy.

(Heb 10:32-34)

1. When our possessions are in heaven then we do not fear what may happen to our earthly possessions.
2. There is a fellowship with others who also have this motivation. **(Rev 1:9)**

#86G – Be Strong and Courageous– Verses 1,2

B. This motivation must be maintained! **(Heb 10:35-39)**

1. We possess a remarkable tendency to forget things that once moved us.
2. Israel forgot the mighty signs in the wilderness. **(Psa 106:7, 11-13, 20-21)**
3. We can forget the joy of forgiveness and what it means! **(2 Pt 1:9)**

#168B – Beneath the Cross of Jesus – Verses 1,2,3

4. Are you zealously looking for the return of Christ? Where is your motivation?

I. As we mature in Christ so will our cause for motivation

A. Do you remember when you were baptized? What motivated you?

1. It may have been because you learned of denominational error. **(Acts 19:3-5)**
2. It may have been because you realized the brevity of life.
3. It may have been out of a fear of hell.
4. It may have been because you wanted to be right with God. **(Acts 2:37)**

B. There are many things that are motivating but some things become more important as we mature.

1. While there is a place for fear there is a greater need for love. **(1 Jn 4:17-19)**

#182G – The Lord is My Light – Verses 1,2

2. While we mature we must not become proud and cast away our obedience!

- a. Some of those who talk about love the most can be some of the most hateful and underhanded people I know. **(1 Jn 4:20-21)**
- b. Others have a Gnostic like attitude that claim their superior “spirituality” places them above discussions about outward obedience. **(1 Jn 2:3-6)**

3. Have you seen a progression in your motivation? (Ex. How having a family matures you...coming home from a trip.)

II. What does heaven mean to you?

A. Heaven is pictured as a beautiful place. **(Rev 21:17-21)**

1. There was a time where I thought more about the physical nature of these things.
2. The figures of this book represent something far greater, something spiritual.

#196B – How Beautiful Heaven Must Be – Verses 1, 3 – Chris Carter

B. Heaven is a place free from suffering and evil. **(Rev 21:4, 26-27)**

1. Have you expressed the thoughts that God did about wicked people? **(Jer 9:2-3)**
2. On earth these things can cause us to want a better life.

C. Heaven is a place of fellowship with all the faithful. **(Rev 22:3)**

D. Heaven is a place to be with God. **(Rev 21:3-4, 22-25; 22:3-5)**

III. How do we set our hope on these things?

- A. We must purposely direct our minds to these things.
 - 1. How does one “gird up” their minds? **(1 Pt 1:13)**
 - 2. There is a need to place these thoughts often in our hearts. **(Heb 6:11)**
 - 3. Where will we choose to place our hearts. **(Psa 78:7; 62:10)**

#2G – A Foretaste of Your Rest – Verses 1,2,3

- 4. It is easy to give into a different hope. **(Mt 6:19-21, 24)**
- B. We must have a reason for hope. **(1 Pt 3:15)**
 - 1. Do you know that Jesus is the Son of God? **(Rom 1:3-4; 2 Cor 4:13-14)**
 - 2. Can you give these infallible proofs? **(Acts 1:1-3)**
 - 3. It is good to review and rejoice in what we know.
- B. We must let our suffering turn our minds towards heaven. **(Heb 11:13-16, 24-26)**

#53G – The Rock of my Heart – Verses 1,2,3

- 1. We can easily forget God from pride when things go well.
 “The man who is seriously convinced that he deserves to go to hell is not likely to go there, while the man who believes that he is worthy of heaven will certainly never enter that blessed place.”
- 2. Do you let suffering cause your heart to turn to God? Some become bitter.
- 3. When we do look at God our sufferings become small! **(Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17-18)**

- C. We must let our loneliness and longing for fellowship cause us to seek heaven.

- 1. We can let our present fellowship give us a taste of heaven. **(2 Jn 4; 3 Jn 3-4)**

#302B – Blest Be the Tie that Binds - Verses 1,3,4

- 2. What comfort do you find from faithful Christians? Who will we find in heaven?
- D. We need to grow in our knowledge of God and thus our desire to be with Him in heaven.
 - 1. What is your present relationship with Him like? Is he your friend that is preparing a place for a reunion? **(Jn 15:13-15; 14:1-4)**
 - 2. Consider the prayers of Jesus. Jesus was gain exalted! **(Jn 17:1-5)**

#20G – Exalted – Verses 1,2,3

- 3. Some have a “cardboard” relationship. There is no concept of the presence of a living God who knows, sees and answers prayers.
- 4. Our love of praising God here will prepare us for heaven.
 “If a person does not enjoy the worship and services of the Lord, he no doubt would be out of place in heaven.”

- 5. Do you share your burdens with God as you would with a friend? **(Mt 11:28-30)**

- E. By living for Him we can have a taste of heaven now! **(Jn 10:10)**

Conclusion: Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

- A. Jesus told us of His return so we might keep our hearts and wait for Him. **(1 Pt 1:6-9)**
- B. Our lives must be one of focus and purpose to be ready. **(Mt 7:13-14)**
- C. Do you want to see the kingdom of God? **(Jn 3:3-5)**

#194B – When We All Get To Heaven - Verses 1,2,3