

*Wanting something is not enough. You must hunger for it. Your motivation must be absolutely compelling in order to overcome the obstacles that will invariably come your way.*  
*Les Brown*

One of the real keys to life I believe is motivation. If the motivation to do a certain thing is strong then many times the person that tackles a task or a goal succeeds. In sports, it seems that the teams that make it until the end are highly motivated and focused on their task.

Read about or talk to anyone who excels or succeeds in their task and you discover a great deal of dedication, which means that they had strong motivation focused on what they wanted to achieve. You might also discover that for that person to reach that goal there was much hard work, disappointments, road blocks, dead ends as well as mistakes along the way. Yet it might be clear that their strong motivation for the task never wavered and saw them through at the end of the day.

For me that motivation in my calling came at age 16. It was a little while after I made a public commitment to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I was walking on a brisk March day after church, and was reading the new bible that my parents had given me. Somehow I flipped to Paul's letter to the Philippians. The heading at the top of the page said {this being the King James Version) "Paul giveth up all for Christ". My eyes then read:

*7But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

*8Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith(Philippians 3:7-9)*

Reading those words made quite an impression on me as a teenager. They became my motivations that eventually lead me to enter the process for ordained ministry in 1981.

When I stayed focused on that motivation being willing or even just open to "give up" something in service and devotion to my Lord, either doors were opened, a goal was achieved, or if nothing more I felt a peace or "solidness" that I was on the right track. Leaving that motivation, never in the long run, was particularly helpful, edifying or personally spiritually renewing.

What is your motivation in life?

The one sure motivation that will guide us is our commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If that was our primary motivation there is no telling how powerfully God could us or the church for His glory.

Pr. John H. Van Haneghan