

How To Maintain Momentum



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Romans 12:9-12.

**“Let love be without dissimulation.
Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that
which is good.**

**Be kindly affectioned one to
another with brotherly love; in honour
preferring one another;**

**Not slothful in business; fervent in
spirit; serving the Lord;**

**Rejoicing in hope; patient in
tribulation; continuing instant in prayer”**

I have watched a lot of football games. I have noticed the use of the word momentum. Also the team that has it is more excited and winning. It was easy to watch the Texas A&M, Johnny Manziel, he won the Heisman trophy as a freshman. When I read the great Apostle Paul he used these terms often in his writings.

The New York Central Railway Company claimed that it's largest locomotive thundering down the tracks at top speed could crash through concrete five feet thick. That is some train when put on public display was held in place by a one inch block. What is the difference? Momentum. When sufficient momentum swells in a church, the congregation becomes unstoppable. The members believe God for the impossible. They become excited about bringing their friends to church. They find great joy in being involved in a course that is greater than the hum drum duties of daily life. They find something they believe in and become willing to give themselves to it. Men like David Livingston who was beat in Africa, Billy Graham and others.

I love to be around excited Christians, excited about being saved, excited about their savior Jesus Christ, excited about serving a person so focused on the things of the Lord. Everything else is not important. These are the people who also get things done for God. I have discovered a highly motivated man is a highly achieving person. You

may have heard the story about a man being chased by a grizzly bear through the woods. He could feel the warm, moist breath of the bear on the back of his neck, and he could hear the wind whistling as the bear was making great swipes with his massive claws. The fellow thought he was done for. There seemed to be no escape, nowhere to hide. Then he saw a limb of a tree, about fifteen or twenty feet off the ground in his pathway. And he said to himself, if it were possible for a man to jump that high, I would be safe. But, no man has ever made a leap like that.

Well, about that time the bear gave a terrible growl and he thought he would give it a try. And so he gathered all of his strength together and gave one mighty, tremendous leap. But he missed the limb. However, he caught it on the way back down, and he was safe. Now you can say with all sincerity that man was highly motivated!!!

Motivation is very important. Keeping momentum is as important to success in any field. I have been blessed to be part of a team here at Mtn. Ash. This is a must to have good leadership.

Elmer Towns says “When they buy into your dream they buy into your leadership as a leader you have to be more like a thermostat than a thermometer”. A thermometer simply measures but a thermostat sets the climate.

I. How Momentum Starts. Vs. 9-10.

Without a question the highest and most motivated man we know in the service of our Lord was the Apostle Paul, a man of great accomplishments. He went on missionary trips in hostile territories, preaching and building churches. Often imprisoned staying strong for God not down. **Acts 16:22-25. “And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.**

And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them”.

Wrote over half the New Testament, he always maintained momentum in his ministry. He knew the secret. **Romans 12:1-2. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,

that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”.

He wrote in Eph. 5:18. “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit”.

Paul had learned it starts with us being in touch with God correctly. Momentum comes from tapping into the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the result of the whole church buying into a positive attitude of faith. If you ever study the book of Acts and the life of the early church. It will help you understand this power and the place momentum had in that going and growing church.

A. It is Created by Love Vs.9.

Leaders must not only understand momentum but they should also know how to create it. Paul says, “it is created in a place where real love exists, not just words, not hypocritical love”. There must be a genuine love. When people have a passion for souls, a real love; there will be a momentum. Keeping a church focused on what God wants us to do and not getting bogged down in the junk of the world. A real love is so important to a growing church. People need this tlc. Read verse 9. Love needs to be real. John R. Rice told about visiting a home in Chicago where they had a electric horse. He got on and pressed the button and presto. He galloped a fine imitation of the gallop of

a horse but it was only an imitation after all. When he pressed the button, the galloping stopped and he got off exactly where he got on. He had not been anywhere at all, not real. That is a problem. We need a real love that others can feel. This will get us somewhere.

B. It is Created by Loyalty.

There must be the brotherly love in preferring one another. We are family; a team that sticks together then, fights together and supports each other. Webster defines loyalty as being faithful to a person or a cause. Today, we need an old fashion revival of loyalty in our churches. I am talking about the kind that has made our church what it is. People have been loyal to each other. Like the Lawson family, Ted Surber, Charles Estes, Margaret Petrey. If the doors were opened they were here, people who loved Jesus. **Phil 1:21.**

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”.

Ruth 1:16

“And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God”

Where thou goest I will go. We need more loyalty to Jesus our Savior and His church that He

loved and died for. We have people loyal to sports teams, Tennessee, Kentucky that supports them even if they are losing.

(Story of Russian man) When Napoleons armies occupied part of Russia, one certain town was deserted. All the people had run away except for a gain wood cutter (lumberjack) who stood defiant in the town square with his ax hanging from his belt. A French soldier started over to kill him but when the French captain saw the man's courage, he said, "We can use men like him. Brand the Emperor's initial in his palm" It was done and the man looked at the "N" and asked what it meant. He was told "now you belong to Napoleon!" At that, the pulled out his ax, laid that hand on the block and chopped it off. And he said, "That hand may belong to Napoleon but my heart and soul and life belong to Russia!" **Heb. 10:25. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching".**

II. How Momentum Serves. Vs. 11.

Not slothful in business ferment in spirit, serving the Lord. The work of God should be a joy to do. It should be done with excitement and desire. Your serving the Lord is not so much what you do, but how you do it. We are saved to serve. Salvation

and service happens together. When Paul was saved on the road to Damascus.

Acts 9:6. “And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do”.

Matt 4:19. “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”. So if you are not fishing you are not following.

A. It Should Be Enthusiastic Service.

Your service to the Lord should be with enthusiasm. Never slothful but Paul says ferment in spirit. The word ferment means boiling. Like the preacher in **Acts 18:25.**

“This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John”.

It is sad to see many people who call themselves Christians lacking this zeal. **Titus 2:14.** **“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works”.** Zealous of good works excited about their work for the Lord. Whether it is singing, preaching, playing the piano, or driving a bus. Too many go about their service to the Lord with no excitement, boring.

Some of you are not interested in serving the Lord. You act like it's painful to you. Whereas it should be the most thrilling and fascinating thing in all the world.

No Christian should face his job without asking himself, has God called me to do this work? Is this the purpose of God for my life? If it is then it's not a job. It is a ministry and it should be a glorious adventure with the Lord. **Luke 2:49. "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"**

John 9:4. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work".

B. It Should Be Expectant Service.

Momentum lives in a church that has expectations. They expect to win, they expect revival, they expect people to be saved.

(Story of Preacher came to Charles Spurgeon).

We should expect God to do great things. We should have positive expectations of future events planned for our church. This could be our greatest year ever. We should be excited about what God has already done to this date. We need to believe God for the impossible in our future. I am

making plans for a great year. To see people get saved. When we serve our Lord, it will be rewarded.

III. How Momentum Stays. Vs 12.

Momentum is no respecter of church. No matter its size or finances. If you are not a good steward you will lose it. Paul says “Rejoice in hope, patient in tribulation continuing instant in prayer” Keep all the momentum going. Don’t lose it. You can lose your power and still go for a while on momentum, it won’t last. Have you ever ran out of gas in an automobile? I have etc.

A. This is Fragile.

A church can lose this, a person can lose this. Some of you have become unfocused on the things of God. Maybe because of the holidays, making money, sports, recreation hunting, or fishing. This is fragile momentum it’s sort of like trying to hold onto a bar of soap; it tends to shoot right out of your hand. One minute you have it and the next minute it’s gone. The problem is we lose our grip.

B. There Must be Focus.

To keep momentum going, people excited in service. It is great to keep focus on your works for Jesus. This is what Paul meant.

Phil 3:13-14. “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Keeping our mind on our ministry, our work for God. If an athlete cannot concentrate if he cannot teach himself to focus; he will not be able to compete. Players talk about being in a zone. Their concentrations are so intense that it blocks out the rest of the world. They do not hear the crowd noises. They do not feel the pain of injury. They are so focused. The same kind of concentration is required for those who would win for Jesus. Nothing or nobody should be allowed to divert us away from the goal.

1 Cor. 9:26-27. “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway”.

Ps 73:25. “Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee”.

"Come To The Mountain"



Mountain Ash TM

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