



Title: Motivated?

Date: 11.22.09

Series: WWJD (What Would James Do?)

Text: James 4:1-12

Synopsis: In business there are many factors that motivate the consumer to buy or the employee to perform. Some of these motivators are intrinsic and some are extrinsic. An intrinsic motivator comes automatically from using a product or doing an activity. An extrinsic motivator is added on. Someone in power decides to give them; they do not necessarily come from using the product or doing the activity.

An example of intrinsic motivation would be the satisfaction of purchasing a quality vehicle that performs well, is stylish and has little maintenance costs, or perhaps an employee's pride in achievement or the respect given by fellow workers and supervisors. An example of an extrinsic motivator would be a cash rebate to a consumer for the purchase of an automobile, or a bonus given to an employee for excellent performance.

What the effective business has learned is that there is no amount of extrinsic motivators that compel the consumer or employee if the intrinsic motivators don't exist. The same is true in prayer.

Too often we try to motivate ourselves to pray through extrinsic motivators, that is, we ask God for stuff. Although God does give us stuff, the function of prayer is that we are changed into the image of Jesus and we learn to care about the things that Jesus cares about. When we pray, Jesus, through his Spirit, teaches us the things he cares about. When we care about the things that Jesus cares about and we pray accordingly, we move the hand of God.