

GOD'S PROMISE OF REWARDS

God created us in such a way that we would be energized through incentives. That is, God uses incentives to help motivate us. As believers our real motivation is based on the realization that Christ first loved us. "We love him, because he first loved us" (1Jn.4:19). See also 1Jn.4:10; Jn.3:16; 2Co.5:14-15, "the love of Christ constraineth us"; Ep.2:3-5). God uses rewards as incentives including giving generously (Lk.6:38), enduring pressures in ministry (2Co.4:17-18); and performing quality work for our employer (Cl.3:23-24). However, we can seek eternal rewards with a corrupt heart, seeking to be known as a spiritual person. But before Christ our motives will be revealed. There is nothing wrong with seeking rewards, but these rewards must be sought God's prescribed way.

- "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Mt.6:20)
- "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Mt.6:33)

PRAYING AND FASTING

Prayer is one way we show our reliance on God, and helps us grow closer to Him. God values prayer and a life characterized by seeking Him.

📖 ⁶"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly...¹⁷But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; ¹⁸That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly." (Mt.6:6,17,18)

HAVING COMPASSION FOR THE VULNERABLE

Having compassion for those in need and welcoming them is seen as having compassion on Christ Himself. These are blessed of the Father.

📖 ³⁴Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: ³⁶Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. ³⁷Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?... ⁴⁰And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Mt.25:34-37,40)

BEING INSULTED FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST

We are to "leap for joy" when persecuted or ridiculed for Christ's name which may seem backwards, but is promised great reward in Heaven.

📖 ²²Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. ²³Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets." (Lk.6:22-23)

LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

We will receive a reward for loving the ones who insult us. When we love our enemies we emulate the kind of love God showed to all rebellious unsaved people. This describes all believers before coming to Christ.

📖 "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil." (Lk.6:35)



HOSPITALITY THAT CANNOT BE REPAID

There certainly are things on this earth where you are not repaid, including hospitality. God does not overlook our efforts and promises a reward.

📖 ¹²Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. ¹³But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: ¹⁴And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." (Lk.14:12-14)

BEING FAITHFUL TO THE TRUTH

God desires our deep commitment to His Word. Jesus said He is the truth (Jn.14:6). God will reward those that guard His truth.

📖 ⁷"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. ⁸Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." (2Jn.7-8)