
THE GREATEST MOTIVATIONAL MESSAGE

A Life Changing Experience For Millions

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There are some great motivational speakers around the world, and some of them are so good with such a powerful emotional message they can get crowds of tens of thousands of people on their feet shouting and clapping and dancing enthusiastically. But among all the motivational teachers from the beginning of time, and among all the messages delivered, there is one teacher and one message that stands so far above all the others, there is no comparison. No one and no message has changed so many lives forever like this man and this message.

What is this motivational message that is so powerful, so truthful, so unaffected by time, and so life changing? It is the message delivered through Jesus Christ, and it is such a divinely powerful message that virtually no one can comprehend it without the help of the God who wrote the script.

I want to share the substance of the greatest message ever delivered. I hope and pray I will do justice pointing to him and to his message, and that the eyes of your heart will be opened so you can receive the message and be changed forever. If you comprehend his

motivational message, you will never need to attend another motivational seminar, because all other messages will pale in comparison. The message of Jesus Christ will empower you in this life and in the life to come.

The man and the message are hard to separate, because Jesus not only brought the message, he is the divine message. Jesus was not just another man with a message, he was God incarnate. Jesus said,

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” [John 14:6]

No other motivational teacher in this world could claim to be the message like Jesus did.

Consider that Jesus was born of a virgin, which never happened before or since. He performed miracles never seen before, including walking on water, healing lepers, and raising the dead. He was crucified on a cross, died, was buried, and after three days raised himself from the dead. Can you name a single motivational speaker who has done any of these things, let alone all of them?

Jesus didn't try to inspire us just by walking on glowing coals—he raised himself from the dead! Jesus didn't just teach people how to acquire things—he created the Heavens and the earth! Jesus didn't just heal people, his sacrifice saved millions of souls! There has never been a savior like Jesus. There has never been a man like Jesus. There has never been such a motivational teacher like Jesus.

Now let's look at the substance of the greatest message ever delivered to mankind.

First, God chose you before the foundation of the world to belong to the greatest Kingdom of all, the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom is not a Kingdom on earth. It is bigger than all the world's kingdoms of all time combined. This is the Kingdom of the God who created the earth. More than that, this is the Kingdom of the God who created the Heavens and the earth. This is the God

who appoints kings and prime ministers and presidents of nations. This is the God who is not just sovereign, he is absolutely sovereign. This is the God who's every Word has come true, although many of His prophetic words were spoken and written down thousands of years ago. Is there any motivational speaker today whose words will be 100% accurate for the next 3,000 years for all people in all nations?

What is the proof that he chose you before the foundation of the earth?

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." Ephesians 1:3-6

Not only does he tell us twice in these verses that we have been "predestined" (with a third reminder further down) and chosen before the foundation of the earth, but he gives us an incredible motivational boost by telling us that he "blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ," and that he "predestined" us to "adoption as sons through Jesus Christ."

Don't miss the absolutely incredible depth of the blessings in these two simple statements. Do you realize he gave you "every spiritual blessing" because he chose you and because he loves you so much? When was the last time you attended a motivational seminar where they gave you any kind of gift worth more than \$1.99, let alone "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places?" The realization of how vast this blessing is ought to knock you out of your chair, or at the least it ought to make any success or motivational seminar offered by secular-

ists or prosperity doctrine preachers boring to you and a total waste of time.

And then there's the second phenomenal blessing, that he "predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ." Oh my goodness. This alone deserves a 12-volume treatise on the implications and the blessings and the eternal significance of being adopted as sons through Jesus Christ. Forgive me for attempting to pack 12 volumes into a couple of sentences, but here we go.

When you are adopted as a son, you become part of the family with all the familial rights and legal rights of a son (or daughter). Since Jesus died on the cross for you, and you have been predestined, chosen, and saved by the sacrifice of the lamb on the cross, you have been adopted as a son into the Kingdom of God. You not only have been saved from eternal condemnation with your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, but as an adopted son, you have also been given the Holy Spirit who resides in you, and you've been given the mind of Christ, as well as a spiritual gift or gifts. And he promised that you will never be snatched out of his protective custody.

Oh my. I'm having a hard time not falling down right now on my knees, bowing before God and praising his holy name. Just this concept of being adopted as a son is richer, more powerful, has greater motivational value than all the world's motivational seminars put together for all of time, and even then there is no comparison. Why on earth would we attend a silly success seminar when God has given us the greatest message the world has ever heard or read though his Word in the Bible?

In any motivational speech, words need to be empowered by truth and wisdom, and there are no words more powerful and true than the words of the Almighty himself. How can any mortal man compete with God? A popular motivational speaker may be smart, articulate, a master of human behavior and manipulation, but he cannot compete with God's wisdom and power and truth.

Imagine the creator of the Heavens choosing you before he even

created the foundation of the earth! He knew you before you were born and before your mother and father were born. With such great love lavished on you personally, with such attention and care, with such pre-destined thought, how could you not be filled with appreciation and hope? You are not just special, you are extraordinarily special among all people's of all time. This message alone is greater than all the motivational speeches combined. But there is more. Much more.

Second, God loves you so much, he sent his only son, Jesus, who willingly came and who voluntarily gave his life as a sacrifice on a cross for your personal sin. Remember, this is Jesus Christ, who had existed with God and the Holy Spirit in eternity in perfect unity. He lowered himself to become a man and to die the most gruesome death ever conceived by men. And he did it as the sacrificial lamb, so that you could have eternal salvation from sin and judgment. He loved you more than you can possibly imagine! What price can you possibly put on this sacrifice and this salvation? We could stop right there, and we already have the greatest motivational message in history, but God wasn't done.

Third, Jesus was resurrected from the dead and rose from the grave so you too could be dead to sin and alive to God. This is incredibly important to you, because his resurrection means that he overcame death itself. This also means you have overcome death, because you have spiritually risen, and your spirit is free from the bondage of sin and this flesh. Just like Jesus rose from the dead and is free from its grip, so your spirit is united with his, and you are free from the grip of death. You will rise too someday, leaving your old body behind, whether that is from the grave to Heaven or while you are still alive to be caught up in the rapture. If this is all that we could claim as Christians, it would be enough to live the rest of our lives as though we were ecstatic with joy, because we know the end of the story. No motivational speech promising worldly riches can compare to this prize.

Fourth, God sent you the Holy Spirit to guide you. This is vastly misunderstood today. Imagine a God who loved you first, who

chose you before the foundation of the world, who sent his only son to die as a sacrifice in your stead so you would not have to face eternal condemnation, and then this same God sent the Holy Spirit to live inside you so you that you could have special spiritual guidance every day as long as you live! This is almost too good to be true, but now I'm repeating myself.

It's surreal, isn't it? The Holy Spirit is one with God, and lives within you, speaking softly to your mind and your heart, encouraging you, giving you hope, and even praying on your behalf to our Father in Heaven, all for you. How could it be possible that God could love you so much? But he does. How could we not be giddy about this love that has been lavished upon us so generously?

Would not all of this be more than enough to give your life to God in faithful service as an expression of thanks for all that he has done for you already? I can't believe I'm saying this, but there is still more.

Fifth, when you became a believer, God gave you a spiritual gift. A spiritual gift is not something you were born with. It is a special dispensation from God directly to you, and spiritual gifts are empowered by God for your use and your edification so long as you live on this planet. Being faithful and practicing your spiritual gift will bring you tremendous satisfaction in life, more than any gift you will ever receive from any family member or friend. If we could put a price on this kind of gift from God himself, how much would it be worth? Surely it would be worth more than all the diamonds in this world.

Sixth, God gave you his inspired revelation and written instructions in the Bible so you would know exactly how to live your life. In the thousands of years that the old and new testaments have been written, not one word has been untrue. Not one. How much would you pay for a book that is true for thousands of years, has predicted events with 100% accuracy going back at least 6,000 years, and gives us the greatest motivational words of encouragement of any book ever written. No wonder it is the best selling

book in world history. There is no other book that gives us proven wisdom for life, and is always right.

Seventh, God has given you everything you need for life and godliness. He has given you eternal salvation, the Holy Spirit to guide you, a spiritual gift to help you live and serve others, and the Bible to speak to your mind and heart and guide you in the ways you should go. God has held nothing back. You have everything you need for this life and everything you need to live for God.

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” [2 Peter 1:3]

Just when we begin to realize how much God has given us, we discover he has given us much more. Does not all this trump what you get after attending a secular motivational seminar given by a charismatic man or woman?

Eighth, God is preparing a place for you in Heaven, and it is going to blow your mind. Jesus said,

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:1-3

Do you think for one minute that in God’s Heaven there are slums where people live? Of course not. For a God who never does anything that is not grand and on a scale that we cannot begin to comprehend, like the creation of the Universe, what kind of home do you suppose Jesus is preparing for you? The richest man in this world could not begin to afford a mansion in Heaven. First, he could not buy his salva-

tion and a way into Heaven, and secondly he could not buy a mansion in Heaven with puny U.S. dollars.

Ninth, God is going to reward you with eternal rewards for all the good that you did during your life on this planet. This is also mind blowing. Rewards in Heaven. How are we to even grasp the full meaning of rewards from God? These rewards will unquestionably be a delightful surprise, because I cannot imagine God doing anything on a small or insignificant scale.

Tenth, Jesus will bring you home in the rapture very soon. What if this were the only gift God gave you. Would becoming a Christian be worth it? Absolutely . . . times 10 trillion. Every single one of God's gifts to us are extraordinary and out of this world. The rapture is a gift that most people do not even think about, let alone comprehend.

A genuine believer who is predestined, saved by the blood of the lamb, justified, and sanctified is passionately looking forward to the rapture. This is a believer who wants to be in the presence of Almighty God. This believer worships God every day, prays regularly, and is repulsed by all the horrendous sin that is so prevalent today all over the world.

Not only is the rapture a time when we will be re-united with our savior, which is another exciting conversation in itself, but we will escape the tribulation. The Devil is going to try to take over, and he will rule the world for a time with God's permission. The tribulation will be the worst time in the history of the world according to Jesus' own words. Thank God we will not be in the Tribulation, because God will take us home in the rapture before the seven year Tribulation starts.

Put all of these unbelievable gifts together, and tell me, . . . please tell me that this isn't the greatest motivational message man has ever been given, that the world has ever read or heard. Let me summarize please.

First, God chose you before the foundation of the world to

belong to the greatest Kingdom of all, the Kingdom of God. Second, God loves you so much, he sent his only son, Jesus, who willingly came and who voluntarily gave his life as a sacrifice on a cross for your personal sin. Third, Jesus was resurrected from the dead and rose from the grave so you too could be dead to sin and alive to God. Fourth, God sent you the Holy Spirit to guide you. Fifth, when you became a believer, God gave you a spiritual gift that is out of this world. Sixth, God gave you his inspired revelation and written instructions in the Bible so you would know exactly how to live your life. Seventh, God has given you everything you need for life and godliness. Eighth, God is preparing a place for you in Heaven, and it is going to blow your mind. Ninth, God is going to reward you with eternal rewards for all the good that you did during your life on this planet. Tenth, Jesus will bring you home in the rapture very soon.

I almost fell out of my chair as I read that summery. It is so powerful and so wonderful, it is all the encouragement I need today and tomorrow and the rest of my life. How can anyone who eats at such a feast of God's Word still hunger for shallow "fame and fortune" seminars given by men who do not even know Christ!

Does your heart burn with passion to know Christ better? Do you rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks in all circumstances? Do you love talking with fellow believers about God and how he is working in your life? Is the Bible precious to you? Are you looking forward to the rapture?

Now would you agree with me that the greatest motivational teacher in all of history is Jesus, and that his gospel message is the greatest message the world has ever received? How can anyone else or any other message even compare? May God be praised forever and forever!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has

blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:3-14

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Chuck Marunde grew up in Alaska in a 900 square foot cabin with his parents, two sisters and two brothers. Their cabin was heated with a 55-gallon barrel welded into a wood stove. A single kerosene lantern hanging from a 16-penny nail lit the entire cabin. The outhouse was a lonely walk in the middle of a dark cold winter night. Winters lasted for nine months, and their little cabin burned 10 cords of firewood every winter.

Life in remote Alaska was harsh in the '60s, but it was also rich with experiences and valuable lessons for life. Chuck got through college by working as a forest fire fighter in Alaska for the BLM (Bureau of Land Management). After graduating from the University

of Alaska with a B.A. in Economics, Chuck got his teaching credentials and taught high school for two years in a little Alaskan town called Nenana. He then married and worked his way through Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane while raising a family.

Chuck joined the United States Air Force and served four years as a Captain and a JAG, first as a prosecutor and then a defense attorney. It was as a defense attorney that Chuck had the privilege of helping clients learn about how to get past the behaviors that got them into trouble, and he discovered he was experiencing more fulfillment in serving God evangelizing and discipling than he was as an officer in the USAF.

It was at this point that Chuck left the USAF and went to work for Chuck Colson and Prison Fellowship Ministries as Area Director of Nevada and Utah. "I really enjoyed going to different denominations to share the vision of Prison Fellowship Ministries and to recruit volunteers and donors. What an incredible experience it was to meet Christians from so many different denominations. It was also an amazing experience to go into high security prisons to teach the Word of God with inmates who were murders without the possibility of parole. I grew a lot from that experience."

Chuck also learned something else that was life changing. He learned that you do not have to be in full time ministry to serve God to the fullest and experience the greatest fulfillment.

Realizing he needed to get his children out of the gang and drug infested inner city known as North Las Vegas, Chuck looked for a safe place to raise his children. He found that place on the beautiful Olympic Peninsula in Sequim, Washington. Chuck finished 20 years of law practice in Sequim and lives there today.

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