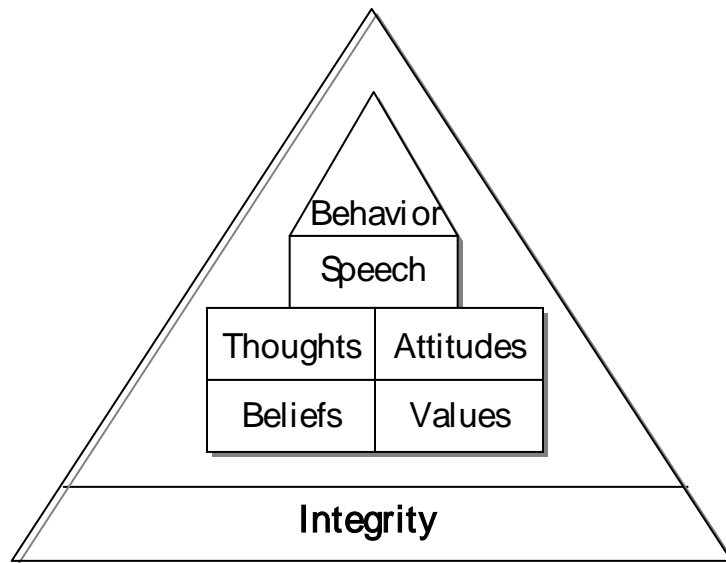


Introduction: Why is it so difficult to “get started” and almost impossible to “keep going?”



The Dynamics of Change for Life Integration:

The Context: James 3:1-18

¹Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

²We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. ³When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, ⁸but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

- **Promise of Judgment** = Motivation Through Accountability (v. 1)

- **The Tongue** = Fruit of Our Inner Life (v. 2-8)
 - Positive Potential = (v. 2-5)
 - Negative Impact = (v. 6-8)

- **The Problem** = (v. 9-12)
 - Identified = _____ v. 9-10
 - Roots of = _____ v. 11
 - Fruit of = _____ v. 12

- **Wisdom** = Roots of Our Inner Life (v. 13-17)
 - Negative Roots = Negative Impact (v. 13-16)
 - Positive Roots = Positive Impact (v.17)

- **Promise of Reward** = Motivation Through Hope (v.18)

Three Motivational Principles from James 3:1-18

1. The Principle of Certain _____ . (v. 1)
2. The Principle of Future _____ . (v. 18)
3. The Principle of Strategic _____ . (v. 2-5)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is motivation such a problem for most of us?
2. Discuss what aspect of this message you think will be most helpful for you in developing lasting motivation. Explain why.
3. How will you specifically apply the three motivational principles to your life situation?