

## Ego- or Spirit-driven?

If Jesus lived in our world today, would he drive his brother's previously-owned Saturn over the speed limit?

Two thousand years ago his successful ministry on earth was done by kneeling, reclining, sitting, standing and walking; never running, never speeding. The fastest thing he ever drove was a donkey called *EZ* – short for *Easygoing*.

He was never in a hurry, yet he was never late. He was responsive but never allowed himself to be manipulated. He was concerned but he never panicked. He was zealous but not driven.

Yes, but, what about passion, what about urgency? Well, you can have passion and a sense of urgency and still not be carnally driven. Walk in the Spirit, not in the flesh. People who are driven are pursuing a *personal* agenda. The psychosomatic word "*driven*" means having a purely human compulsive or urgent quality, a pressing sense of obligation and of accomplishment. Jesus had passion, but it was Spirit-controlled. He came to do not his own thing but his Father's will.

Let him be your pacemaker. Let the Lord set your mental clock; let him regulate your emotional timer; let him control your life. He will not overwhelm you with busyness. He won't run you ragged. He will not 'overload your circuits.' He will not cause you to 'crash.'

Don't expect someone to tell you to slow down, for someone to relieve you of some of your workload. You have to take care of yourself, yourself. No one else can force you to do it – and God won't.

In Luke 21:34, Jesus warns us to take good care of ourselves, so that we do not overwork ourselves.

If you're too busy, it's your own doing. You need to stop long enough to evaluate your situation. You may need to give up some responsibilities, to delegate, to train others to do some of your work. Learn how – diplomatically – to say, "No." If your health breaks, what good will you be for anything or to anyone? Remember Charles de Gaulle's observation: "The graveyards are full of indispensable men."

Have you ever wondered why some people are driven? Do they have a poor self-image? Do they need to prove their usefulness? Are they looking for acceptance, approval, recognition? Are they trying hard to please another human being – living or dead?

The Lord did not give you your life without strings attached, without conditions. He *entrusted* life to you. In reality, your life is his. He has prior claim. That means responsibility and accountability to him first.

If the Lord is in charge of your life, you won't be driven and neither will you be idle. You'll be well balanced. Being driven has its perils, but having no motivation is also hazardous. You can't run ahead or lag behind if you are harnessed (yoked) together with Jesus. Let the Lord motivate you. If you think you have a need to be driven, I can't think of a better driver than the Holy Spirit. He does an excellent job – not too fast, not too slow. And it's customized. He takes your personality and your qualifications into consideration.

I am very grateful to Jesus for his amazing offer: *“Come to me, you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”* (Matthew 11:28-30). ◇◇