

Momentum In Ministry

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A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE CHURCH

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AND
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MOMENTUM IN MINISTRY

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D e d i c a t i o n

We dedicate this book to the thousands of men and women like ourselves who have struggled to raise up a church for the glory of God. Your sacrifice and labor is not in vain. God sees where you are at right now. We pray that what we share with you here will encourage your labors and give you a few more tools that you will need as we labor together with Him.

C o n t e n t s

Preface	13
Introduction.....	15
C H A P T E R O N E :	
What is Momentum?.....	23
C H A P T E R T W O :	
God's Nature	37
C H A P T E R T H R E E :	
God will have a People	43
C H A P T E R F O U R :	
Creating Momentum.....	59
C H A P T E R F I V E :	
Maintaining Momentum	75
C H A P T E R S I X :	
When the Enemy Stops your Momentum.....	89
C H A P T E R S E V E N :	
How timing affects Momentum.....	95

What is Momentum?

Momentum is a force more powerful than we realize and it greatly affects our lives. Yet it's not something that we consciously ponder or try to figure out. Scientists and physicists, however, study momentum all the time.

Momentum is defined as “mass in motion.” All objects have mass; therefore, if an object of mass is moving then it has momentum. The amount of momentum an object has depends on two things:

1. The weight of the object that is moving.
2. The speed of the object that is moving.

In terms of an equation, the momentum of an object is equal to the mass of the object times the speed or velocity of the object. Momentum can also be measured by its direction. This is called linear momentum because now it has direction as well as magnitude.

Momentum occurs when a force that is greater than the resistance to the object is applied.

Momentum is a conserved quantity, meaning that the total momentum of any closed system (one not affected by outside forces) cannot change. Here on Earth, gravity is the outside force that comes to mind for most of us. Gravity is the force that gives weight to objects and mass on Earth. The Earth's mass creates a gravitational pull on all objects near its surface. Anything on or near the surface of the Earth such as planes, trains, and automobiles, must use a force that is greater than gravity for them to begin to move, and to keep moving. Once they are moving, they have created their own momentum. In order to sustain this momentum, the forces that started that momentum must continue to operate, or momentum will decrease and eventually stop.

As we address momentum in ministry, remember that it always takes an outside force for momentum to start, maintain, and to stop! In this book, we will address and discuss the outside forces that constantly threaten the continuance of momentum in the Church once momentum begins.

A p p l i c a t i o n s o f
M o m e n t u m

In sports, momentum is a term commonly used. We often hear things like, "*The Bears are gaining momentum,*" or "*The Blackhawks lost their momentum on the long road trip out west.*" You may recall a situation like this: A team comes from behind and the coach

calls a time out to give the team a pep talk. “Don’t give up now,” he urges. “You guys have the momentum, keep it up and you’ll win this game!”

A team that has gained momentum is a team that is difficult to stop. Due to the power of momentum, teams with little talent sometimes defeat skilled and capable teams. Athletes with less ability usually have more heart and desire; therefore, experiencing a small taste of success is all they need to gain confidence. This confidence, combined with their passion to achieve, can build enough momentum in them and their game to defeat opponents who possess much more talent and skill.

Momentum also works in a reverse, negative manner. Just as small doses of success encourage a team, small amounts of failure discourages them. The most talented teams and athletes in the world fail due to a seed of doubt planted in their minds. When the negative momentum of failure is created, some force is needed to stop it; otherwise, a continuance of failure results.

(Dave’s thoughts)

When I was growing up, grade-school math was a breeze for me. I loved it and made straight A pluses. In fact, I was selected as one of two students from sixth grade to represent our school at a special two-week program for gifted students. I couldn’t figure out why some students could not understand the basics of math...it was so easy for me.

Then something happened in ninth grade. I had enrolled in the advanced mathematics class and my teacher, Mr. Elliot, was a brilliant mathematician. The problem was he overlooked some of the things going on in class. The class lacked discipline and soon a few students took advantage of it. We did whatever we wanted in class, and

God Will Have a People

When God decides to do something, nothing can stop Him. In creation, God moved on the face of the waters and nothing could stop that movement. With His spoken Word, the Lord started a spiritual momentum that created light, the heavens and the Earth, and all living things including man. As we have discussed in the previous chapter, when God speaks something into existence, it happens!

Among all the things that God created, He created man in His own image. He did so to have a relationship with us. That was His utmost desire at creation—to fellowship with man.

Revelation 4:11

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: **for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

Although we were created for the express purpose of fellowshiping with our Creator, God also made us free agents with the

a positive note. This leaves the congregation with a spirit of expectancy and joy, maintaining momentum.

Not every service requires a dismissal prayer. Simply remind folks to greet one another and introduce themselves to guests, and tell them they're dismissed. However, if it is a Bible study night and no altar call is given, a dismissal prayer will reinforce the teaching of that service.

To summarize, here is an outline to review what we have just discussed:

Order of Service:

1. Welcome and announcements. This could also include a brief meet and greet.
2. Opening prayer.
3. Praise and Worship.
4. Tithe and offering.
5. Prayer for immediate needs of assembly.
6. Special singing or a slow worship chorus.
7. Preaching of the Word.
8. Altar Service.

Momentum Stoppers:

- No prayer for the service.
- A lack of timing and order of service.
- Announcements given in the middle of service.
- Verbal prayer requests.
- Open testimony services.
- Leaders who like to preach every time they get a microphone in their hands.