

## *What Drives You?*

The 2006 Tour de France began recently. This grueling, twenty-one day race takes bicyclists through the French countryside and up and down the Alps in a test of skill and stamina that brings forth a winner who can arguably be labeled as the best-conditioned athlete in the world. People are understandably amazed at the seven wins accomplished by Lance Armstrong.

One has to ask what drives a person to compete in such a race. Is it the fame and glory? Is it money? Is it the thrill of competition? By the same token, I would be interested to ask anyone alive what drives them to keep living. After all, when you look at it, life is one big endurance test. Let's consider some possible answers.

**“Success”** Many people are motivated by the desire to succeed. Their lives may be centered around a job position or dollars-earned-per-year amount that they would like to have. Oftentimes, when that goal is reached, satisfaction is not achieved. Jesus asked the penetrating question, *“What will a man be profited if he gains the whole world and loses his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Matthew 16:25, **McCord**)

**“Revenge”** People are also motivated by the quest for revenge. Somewhere in their past, many people remember at least one wrong thing done to them. It may have been committed by parents, siblings, spouse, etc. It may even be minor at the time. However, that deed has resulted in a life marked by the pursuit of revenge. Life experience and the Bible teaches us that revenge will *not* satisfy and will *not* fulfill a person. Romans 12:19 reads, *“Beloved, do not take revenge, but give way to wrath, for it is written, ‘Justice is mine; I will repay,’ says the Lord”* (**McCord**).

**“Love”** The purest, noblest, and most satisfying motivation in life is love. When we truly seek to fulfill the two greatest commands (to love God and our neighbor, Matthew 22:37-39), we travel the road of true success. Far beyond what we or others may think, God will be pleased.

*“Love waits patiently. Love is kind, is not jealous. Love does not boast, is not puffed up, is not rude, is not selfish, is not irritable, holds no grudges, does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth; throws a cloak of silence over what is displeasing in another person, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, love never dies...Faith, hope, and love remain, these three; and love is the greatest of these”* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 13, **McCord**).

—Lance Cordle