

# What Matters Most?

Dr. John Tolson

**Everyone's life is driven by something!**

## A driven person...

...is most often gratified only by accomplishment.

...is preoccupied with the symbols of accomplishment.

...is usually caught in the uncontrolled pursuit of expansion.

...tends to have a limited regard for integrity.

## A driven person...

- ...often possesses limited or undeveloped people skills.
- ...tends to be highly competitive
- ...often possesses a volcanic force of anger.
- ...usually abnormally busy.

**What is the driving force in your life?**

# 6 Common Things That Drive Our Lives

## 1. Driven by guilt and shame.

- Guilt-driven people are often manipulated by the past.
- Their past controls their future.
- We do have to be prisoners of the past!

God's specialty is giving  
a man a fresh start!

“What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What joys when sins are covered over! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record.”

Psalm 32:1-2 TLB



**What guilt still grips you?**

# 6 Common Things That Drive Our Lives

## 2. Driven by resentment and anger

- Bitterness and resentment will not make you better!

“To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do.”

Job 5:2 Today's English Version

**What resentment  
are you hanging on to?**

# 6 Common Things That Drive Our Lives

## 3. Driven by fear

“Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life - fear of death, fear of judgment - is one not yet fully formed in love.”

1 John 4: 18 MSG

**What do you fear?**

# 6 Common Things That Drive Our Lives

## 4. Driven by materialism

- Self-worth and net-worth are not the same!
- Value is not determined by your valuables!
- Stuff does not bring lasting security!



**When the game is over  
it all goes back in the box!**



# 6 Common Things That Drive Our Lives

## 5. Driven by need for approval

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Matthew 6:24 NLT

# 6 Common Things That Drive Our Lives

6. Driven by busyness

**What matters most?**

# Priority–Driven Living

## 1. Priorities give PURPOSE

- When life has meaning you can deal with almost anything.
- Isaiah 49:4 NIV
- Job 7:6 TLB
- Job 7:16 TEV
- Jeremiah 29:11 NIV
- Ephesians 3:20 TLB

# Priority–Driven Living

## 2. Priorities give BALANCE

- Proverbs 13:7 MSG
- Isaiah 26:3 TEV

# Priority–Driven Living

## 3. Priorities give FOCUS

- You become effective because you are being selective!
- Restlessness sets in when there is no focus!
- Don't confuse activity with productivity!
- Philippians 3:13 NLT

## Priority–Driven Living

4. Priorities produce PASSION
5. Priorities prepare you for Heaven
  - Romans 14:10b NLT

## **2 Questions God Will Ask Us:**

- 1. What did you do with my Son, Jesus Christ?**
- 2. What did you do with what I gave you?**