



## THE POWER OF INTEREST

J.J. Turner, Ph.D. ©

Have you ever tried to do something you had no interest in doing? There seems to be an unwritten rule in life that says, *Nothing is interesting if you are not interested*. If you aren't interested in football you won't watch a game. If you aren't interested in your health you won't watch your diet. If you aren't interested in the work of the local church you won't get involved.

In his book ***Quality is Free***, Philip B. Crosby wrote: *There is a theory of human behavior that says people subconsciously retard their own intellectual growth. They come to rely on clichés and habits. Once they reach the age of their own personal comfort with the world, they stop learning and their mind runs on idle for the rest of their days. They may progress organizationally, they may be ambitious and eager, and they may even work night and day. But they learn no more* (p.68, 1980, Penguin. N.Y.).

Few things are more tragic than living life in a rut with little desire, if any, to get out. Sad is the person who is living in the past, trying to operate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century on an obsolete education, never realizing that the "Good Old Days" are gone forever.

Every Christian is a disciple, from the first day he starts learning of Christ to the last breath he takes in faithfulness. His status as a student never ends. Yet, for some reason many of us seem to think that attending Bible classes and growing in knowledge of God's word is optional. Not so!

After 40-plus years of trying to encourage and motivate Christians to study God's word and become a doer of it (cf. Jas.1:21-24), I now understand that they never will until they become interested in learning it. Everything God had commanded us to do, from stewardship to evangelism, is all tied to interest.

Really, on a scale of **1 to 5**, how interested are you in learning and doing God's word?

---