

SHOW JAMES

faith that works

PART SEVEN

JAMES 4:1-6

Key points

Think back through the message.
What stuck out?

INTRODUCTION

- Proverbs 27:19

WORLDLY MOTIVES

First: *The motive of pleasure*

- vs.1 & 3

Second: *The motive of lust*

- vs.2

Third: *The motive of discontentedness*

- vs.4
- Matthew 12:38-39

Fourth: *The motive of friendship with the world*

- Vs.4b-5

GODLY MOTIVES

First: *Godly prayerfulness*

- vs.2-3

Second: *Seeking first the Lord's friendship*

- vs.4
- John 15:15
- Matthew 6:33

Third: *The work of the Holy Spirit is a godly motive*

- vs.5

Fourth: *Grace and Humility*

- vs.6

FOUR ANTIDOTES TO WORLDLY MOTIVES

1. *The example of Gethsemane*
2. *A positive view of God's standards*
3. *Spend "mirror time" with God*
4. *Ask, Seek, Knock and keep at it*

MOTIVES MATTER

We all know what it's like to do the right thing for the wrong reason. But what about the reverse? Have you ever done the wrong thing for (what you thought was) the right reason?

Your motives were pure, but you still blew it.

One thing that separates biblical Christianity from almost every other religion is its laser-like focus on our hearts. Our Creator cares what we do, to be sure, but most fundamentally he cares how and why we do certain things. He's interested in those intentions that are hidden from human eyes. He's after our hearts.

Psalm 100:2 commands us to "serve the LORD with gladness." This means that serving God can be an exercise in disobedience. (Yes, you read that correctly.) If our service springs from a heart that isn't glad in God, it isn't obedience. It's sin.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus raises the bar even higher. Struggling with hatred? You have a murder problem. Lust? It's adultery (Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28). And when you fast or give to the poor, Jesus says, make sure no one notices (Matthew 6:1-4, 16-18). God sees your heart, and his approval is enough.

The Maker of heaven and earth isn't just concerned with our service; he's concerned with our intentions. Our motivations. Our hearts.

As deeply as God cares about our motives, however, there's something he cares about even deeper. And that's our message.

Because the Lord cares much about our hearts, wrong motives are bad. But because he cares most about his truth, the wrong gospel is worse.

Let's not tweak the gospel of Jesus. Our mission is to deliver the mail, not tamper with it. The risen King doesn't want editors; he wants men and women who, with gentle courage and humble conviction, will open their mouths to proclaim this liberating message "of first importance" (1 Corinthians 15:3)—the message of what God has accomplished in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus to restore rebels to himself.

So, let's get busy, friends. This good news, after all, is nothing less than God's explosive power to save anyone who embraces his Son (Romans 1:16).



Adapted from: www.thegospelcoalition.org

www.newstart.church