

“A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of Your people Israel.”

- Lk. 2:32

EXAMINING YOUR MOTIVES

 Part 2

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Principles regarding motives
- Negative motives for following the Lord Christ
- How to test my motives?
- Examples of godly motives



PRINCIPLES REGARDING MOTIVES



RECAP

1. Why we do something will ultimately determine what I do
2. Motives help us better understand ourselves
3. Our motives determine our credibility
4. Our motives are ultimately what God is concerned about
5. If our motives are faulty we forfeit our reward
6. Motives cannot be hidden from God



NEGATIVE MOTIVES



1. JUST BECAUSE...

- “For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” (Heb. 5:13-14)
- *“...in the church, if, while we constantly say the same things, you learn nothing more, we shall never cease saying the same things.”* (St. John Chrysostom)



2. TO TEST HIM₍₁₎

- To find fault in His message
 - Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.’ Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?” (Jn. 8:52-53)
 - “Then the Jews said to Him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM. Then they took up stones to throw at Him...” (Jn. 8:57-59)



2. TO TEST HIM₍₂₎

- They followed Him to catch Him in any fault
 - “And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.
(Lk. 11:54-55)
- Some test/accuse the Lord Jesus based on their actions
 - “That You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged.” (Ps. 50:6)



3. PERSONAL GAINS

- “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.” (Jn. 6:26)
- “And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:18-19)



4. FEAR OF ETERNAL JUDGMENT

- “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.” (1 Jn. 4:18)
- “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him.” (Lk. 12:4-5)



HOW TO TEST MY MOTIVES?

- His Word

- “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two- edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” (Heb. 4:12-14)

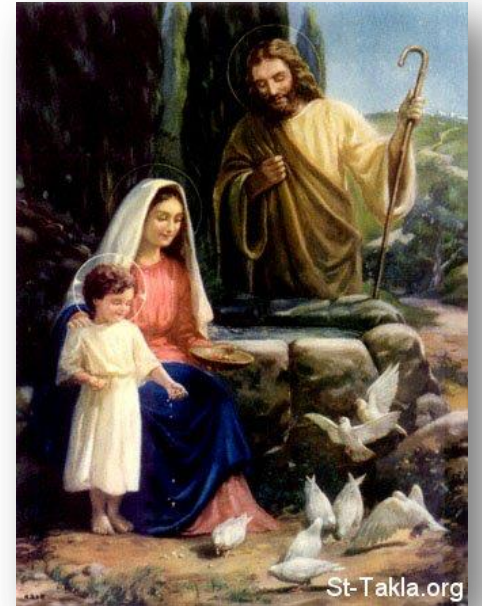
- Trials

- “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” (Jam. 1:2-3)



EXAMPLES OF GODLY MOTIVES

- St. Mary
 - Obedience
- St. Joseph the Carpenter
 - “Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.” (Matt. 1:19)
- St. Paul
 - Gratitude
 - “...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20)



EXAMPLES OF GODLY MOTIVES

- Nehemiah
 - Sense of responsibility
- Moses
 - “Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.” (Ex. 32:32)

