



**ABUNDANT LIFE GOSPEL CHURCH**  
**69, IJU ROAD, AGEGE, LAGOS**  
**SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY**  
**JUNE 2019**

**TOPIC:** MOTIVES AND THE HEART  
**STUDY I:** THE MEANING AND SOURCE OF MOTIVE  
**TEXT:** PROVERBS 16:2

**INTRODUCTION:**

People's attitudes and behaviours can sometimes be noble or deceptive. They may be so difficult to discern until the underlying motive is unveiled. God in His dealings with man does not look at the outward gesture of man but He weighs the motive instead.

**WHAT MOTIVE MEANS:**

- Motive is the reason for doing something or anything that prompts a choice of action.
- Motive is an inward controller that prompts one to act the way he/she does.
- It is the underlying intention buried under a person's behaviour, action or speech.
- It is what a man thinks in his heart which consciously or unconsciously becomes his habit (Prov. 23:7).

Motive is the yardstick with which every spiritual and temporal action is weighed.

**THE SOURCE OF MOTIVES (PROV. 23:3, MATT. 12:33-35)**

Motives proceed from the heart. The gate of the heart is the mind and we act as the gatekeeper who creates an opening in the mind to affect the heart and make it comply with the revealed will of God or evil influence. This is the why the Bible says "*Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it proceeds the issues of life*"(Prov. 4:27).

In other words, whenever you think, you open your heart to the spirit behind your thoughts either good or evil. Since the issues of life flow from the heart, and the mind is the gateway to the heart, the mind is thrown open to forces. Until the mind is thrown

open to the forces of either good or evil, it remains innocent. So, our motives emanate from our thoughts.

### **OUR THOUGHTS (PROV. 23:7)**

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. So, a good motive is produced from a good heart while an evil motive is produced from an evil heart.

We have the responsibility to make our hearts good by choosing the thoughts which we allow inside them -Matt. 12:33-35.

How can we make our hearts good?

We can by being good gatekeepers to the gate of our hearts which are:

- Our Eyes that look daily into the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25)
- Our Ears that choose what we hear (Mark 4:24-25)
- Our Minds that renew our minds daily with the word of God and think on positive things (Phil. 4:8, Rom. 12:2)
- Our mouths that confess positively and speak words of faith to our lives every time (Prov. 18:20-21)

### **CONCLUSION:**

You are not the face you wear or the body you are built with but you are what you think. It is what you think continually that eventually shows in your motives and actions.