



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

TOPIC: MOTIVES AND THE HEART
STUDY IV: THE NATURE OF MOTIVES
TEXTS: JAMES 1:13-15, II TIMOTHY 2:19

INTRODUCTION:

From all the studies on motives and the heart of man, we can see that our actions are backed up by the intent of our hearts. That is why the Bible says that a man is the way he thinks in his heart – Prov. 23:7. We can either display bad motives through pretentious/hypocritical acts or good motives through good deeds. As children of God, we are expected to have good intentions in all that we do.

In today's study, we shall be looking at the nature of motives.

THE NATURE OF MOTIVES:

1. MOTIVES CAN CHANGE AND BE CHANGED:

“And it was so that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart and all those signs came to pass that day” I Sam. 10:9

Does the above passage imply that Saul received a physical heart? No, it doesn't! What he got was a touch from God which changed his pre-existing motive. His normal perception of life, approach to things as well as the central focus of his life got transformed. You can change your motives from bad to good. David said in Psalms 50:10, *“Create in me a clean heart, o God and renew a right spirit within me”*

2. MOTIVES ARE THE TRUE MEASURE OF A MAN:

“But the lord said unto Samuel, look not on his countenance or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him. For the lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart”- I Sam. 16:7

Before the Lord chooses a man He will use, He first checks and sieves his motives. Many people pretend so much that they disguise to please men but God sees and

knows their hearts. He is the only one who knows all hearts and rates a man by his motives.

Eliab the first son of Jesse was qualified physically and in several other outward judgment. He was a legitimate son of the soil, a soldier in the king's army, yet he was rejected from reigning as king.

To be saved or born again is one thing, to be accepted for service in the God's royal court is another. As far as God is concerned, it is a man's motives that qualify him.

3. A GOOD AND GOD-HONOURING MOTIVE CAN SAVE FROM DEATH:

"I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before you in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that was good in thy sight, and Hezekiah wept sore" - II kings 20:3.

King Hezekiah had to use what he had, which was his good motive to make his plea. God saw his motive and prolonged his days. The death sentence on him was cancelled and replaced with healing and long life. A good motive can truly save anyone from the sentence of death.

CONCLUSION:

When a motive is actually operative in mind, it may not be possible to get rid of it on that particular occasion. However, on one's volition, a person may choose to carry out or refrain from the action to which either helps or hinders the recurrence of the particular motive. *"Nevertheless, the foundation of God stands sure having this seal, the lord knoweth His own. And let everyone that is named the name of Christ depart from iniquities (evil motives)"- II Tim. 2:19.*