

DAY 20 — MOTIVES

Making Room for God's Heart | 30 Days of Repentance + Heart Preparation

The Heart Beneath the Action

It is possible to do the right thing for the wrong reason. We can serve because we love, or because we want to be noticed. We can speak truth to help someone grow, or because we want to win. The action may look the same from the outside, but God sees what is happening underneath.

God Sees What We Cannot

Proverbs 16:2 reminds us that our own ways can seem pure to us, while the Lord weighs our motives. First Corinthians 4:5 cautions us against assuming we can fully judge what is hidden in another person's heart. Together, these passages invite both honest self-examination and humility toward others. We need God's light, not merely our own explanations.

Desires That Shape Our Prayers

James 4:1–3 connects conflict with desires battling within us. Sometimes our frustration is not just about what happened; it is about what we wanted to receive, protect, prove, or control. Even prayer can become an attempt to get God to endorse our plans. Instead of hiding those desires, we can bring them into His presence and ask Him to reshape them.

Faithfulness Without an Audience

In Matthew 6:1–6, Jesus warns against practicing righteousness for applause. Giving and prayer are not performances. The Father sees the quiet obedience that no one else notices. His invitation is not to stop doing good publicly when it is needed, but to stop making recognition the reason we do it.

Making Room Today

As you fast, ask God to reveal what lies beneath your wants. Are you seeking love, security, approval, justice, relief, or control? A desire is not automatically sinful, but it deserves honest examination. Invite God to purify your motives without turning reflection into shame. His purpose is to draw your heart closer to His.

Reflect

What am I hoping to gain from the things I am doing right now? Would I still choose what is right if no one noticed, thanked me, or agreed with me? Where do I need to exchange self-protection or recognition for trust in God?