

The story of Simon in Acts shows an account of someone who was growing in the Lord. Read Acts 8:9-25. Write down particular things you notice about Simon, his relationship with Philip, and the condition of his heart.

What do you think was Simon's motive for wanting the ability to give the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands?

In your own spiritual growth, have there been times where you have been growing but have then encountered an area where your "heart was not right before God" (v. 21)? How did you respond?

How do our motives and our heart affect our relationship with God?

Read Colossians 3:1-17. As you surrender your heart to God (God is the only one who can change a heart!), what are some specific things you can do to help set the stage for God to continue his transforming work in your life?

Sermon Notes

What Are the Motives to Our Methods?

Matthew 6:1-18

Paul Helbig



**WordServe. Shaped by God's Word;
serving God's world.**

Community Group Prep Work

For the week of October 18, 2009

Getting Started

If Paul Helbig had to give an abbreviated version of Sunday's message, what two points or ideas would you tell him to include no matter what?

What is the greatest gift you've ever received?

What is the greatest gift you've ever given?

Think back through the seasons of your life, describe a time where you have been forgiven for something (with family, at work, in school, etc.).

Digging Deeper

On Sunday, Paul mentioned that when Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount he assumed that giving, praying, and fasting were normal behaviors. Should those three behaviors be considered normal behaviors today? Why or why not?

Which of the three areas of giving, praying, and fasting do you find hardest to practice in your life today? How can the church better help you/equip you in these areas?

Paul focused on the issues of giving, praying, and fasting, but at the core of all of those issues is our motives. Our study will focus on what the Bible says about motives and heart.

Read 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-13. Why did Samuel want to anoint Eliab? How was Samuel evaluating Eliab?

How does God evaluate or look at a person?

Read Matthew 15:1-20. Jot down things you notice that relate to a person's motives or heart.

List a few examples of ways that people honor God with their lips but their hearts are far away from God (v. 8)?

What are the implications that our behaviors can appear to be "proper" but our hearts can still be "far from God?"