

Improper Motives

James 4:3

Improper motive is a sin frequently overlooked. Very likely, it is the unrecognized cause of many unanswered prayers. We constantly give Him our list of wants but have little thought of what we can give Him. We always want Him to do things for us but are not nearly as concerned with what we can do for Him. Many people pray and worship with very selfish motives. People can operate from a variety of motivations, often negative, pride, anger, revenge, a sense of entitlement, or the desire for approval. Any motivation that originates in our sinful flesh is not pleasing to God.

Are you guilty of seeking God more for what He can do for you than out genuine love for Him?

Do you sense your thoughts are mixed with selfish desires rather than seeking God's glory?

Are you aware of the desire to be noticed and praised by people rather than mainly seeking God's pleasure?

Are you unwilling to pray for God's will, when it doesn't fit your plan?

Does your love and worship decrease when things don't go your way?

When you get disappointed, do you cool off toward God and church? If so, this reveals a significant level of impure motive.

If you are convicted of selfish, impure or shallow motives, immediately confess these sins. Ask God to grant you a deep purity of purpose for His kingdom. Ask Him to give you unconditional love and service to himself.