

INSIDEOUT

LIVING LIFE ON A DEEPER LEVEL

Part 7 – So, What’s Your Motive?
Matthew 6:1-8; 16-18

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There may be a little bit of an “**applause** addict” in all of us.

1. DON’T BE A **PHONY**. (Matthew 6:5-6)
 - A. *Matthew 6:1 “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be **seen** by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” (NIV)*
 - B. *Matthew 6:5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.”*
 1. The word hypocrite in the Greek actually means, “**Actor** on a stage.”
 2. Make sure the good deeds you do aren’t trying to get others to think more highly of you and make sure your **motive** is to genuinely do this good deed for God. (Jesus)
 - C. *Matthew 6:2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with **trumpets**, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.” (NIV)*

The trumpets were actually **collection** boxes in the Temple.

D. *Matthew 6:5, 7-8 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full... 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”*

1. Jesus said that when our prayers are spoken with the motive for personal praise, we **lose** our reward.
2. God wants **sincerity** not beauty in our prayers.

E. *Matthew 6:16 “When you **fast**, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.”*

Fasting is the act doing without **food** for a period of time and using that time you would be preparing and eating the food in prayer or Bible study.

2. LIVE FOR A **RELATIONSHIP** WITH GOD NOT THE APPLAUSE OF OTHERS.

A. Giving.

*Matthew 6:3-4 “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand **know** what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

Don't even let those who know you best know when you give in church and give to someone in need. Give in **secret**.

B. Praying.

Matthew 6:6 “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

C. Fasting.

1. *Matthew 6:17-18 “But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be*

obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

2. Don't tell others you are fasting. Just fast. God **knows** and will reward you.

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Notes:
