

Introduction

1. By way of reminder, we are examining some improper and proper motives for giving.
2. A motive is defined as “something (as a need or desire) that causes a person to act” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).
 - a. We saw this morning that our giving should not be grudgingly or for personal glorification.
 - b. Instead, it should be to express love and gratitude and to minister to the needs of people in and out of the church.

I. Some Improper Motives

1. Necessity ([2 Cor. 9:7](#)).
 - a. Giving is not to be done with the motive of “I have to” or a “God tax.”
 - b. Notice the attitude the children of Israel were to have regarding a poor brother that was in need during the year of release ([Dt. 15:1-11](#)).
2. Selfish gains ([Ac. 8:9-11](#), [18-23](#)).
 - a. Simon was a sorcerer ([Ac. 8:9](#)).
 - b. Simon had bewitched (amazed; stupefied) the people by his sorceries ([Ac. 8:9-11](#)).
 - c. Simon was a fraud and when he saw the **true** power of God *he* was stupefied ([Ac. 8:13](#)).
 - d. When Peter and John, apostles of Jesus Christ, came down from Jerusalem and laid their hands on others to impart spiritual gifts (cf. [1 Cor. 12:1-11](#)), Simon offered them money ([Ac. 8:18-19](#)).
 - e. We know Simon’s motive was wrong based upon Peter’s reaction and remedy for his sin ([Ac. 8:20-23](#)).

II. Some Proper Motives

1. To spread the gospel.
 - a. Paul was very thankful for the support he had received from the Philippians ([Php. 1:3-5](#)).
 - b. The Philippians were active in taking care of the apostle Paul’s necessities by their giving ([Php. 4:14-18](#)).

2. The joy of giving ([2 Cor. 9:7](#)).
 - a. This is the only place that the Greek word *hilaros* (translated as “cheerful”) is used in the New Testament and it is used with giving.
 - b. Here is our connection with being blessed ([Ac. 20:35](#)).

Conclusion

1. When it comes to my giving, what is my motive?
 - a. It should not be grudgingly, for personal glorification, of necessity, or for selfish gains.
 - b. Instead, it should be to express love and gratitude, to minister to the needs of people in and out of the church, to spread the gospel, and because it is a great joy to give.