

# Holy Motives

by A.W. Tozer

---

*The moral quality of an action is determined by its motive, and without a holy motive, there cannot be a holy act.*

**Scripture:** Proverbs 16:2, Matthew 5:16, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Galatians 1:10, Colossians 3:23

**Topics:** "Holiness", "Motive"

---

## Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes the significance of holy motives in our actions, warning against allowing temporal consequences to dictate eternal decisions. He cautions that even good deeds can be tainted if motivated by fear or personal gain, and stresses that the true measure of an act's goodness lies in its intention to glorify God and benefit others. Tozer encourages believers to consider their motives carefully, advocating for silence over harmful speech and urging that love should guide our actions rather than fear. Ultimately, he asserts that without a holy motive, no act can be deemed truly holy.

---

## Transcript

. . . All these examples point up to a grave modern evil, permitting temporal consequences to decide eternal issues.

A word of caution should be added. Sometimes an act, though good in itself, may, in a given set of circumstances, be better held in abeyance. Only be sure the reason for waiting is the desire to promote the glory of God and bless mankind. Sometimes a word, though true, would be out of season and injurious to someone. Better be silent than to speak a harmful word. Only let the reason for silence be love and not fear.

To sum up: no act, however noble it may seem to be, done from fear of consequences can be good in itself. A good deed done for earthly gain is an evil deed at bottom. Motive imparts moral quality, and without a holy motive there cannot be a holy act.

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/aw-tozer/holy-motives/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**