

A wooden head silhouette is shown on a dark wood background. Inside the head, several gears of different sizes and colors (brass and steel) are visible. A magnifying glass with a brass frame and handle is positioned over the head, focusing on a large brass gear. The text 'Do we really want to be wise?' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Do we

*really*

want to be

*wise?*

Living for the approval  
of others  
Giving

Matthew 6.1-4 (NIV11)

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

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 honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

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

... let your light shine before others,  
that they may see your good deeds  
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5.16 (NIV11)

Why am I doing this 'good work'? What's my motivation?

*“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 honoured by others.*

*Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.*

*But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.*

The kind of people who have been so transformed by their daily walk with God that their good deeds flow naturally from their character, are precisely the kind of people whose left hand would not notice what their right hand is doing – as for example when driving one's car or speaking one's native language.

What they do, they do naturally, often automatically, simply because of what they are pervasively and internally.

Those are the people who don't have to invest a lot of reflection in doing good for others.

Their deeds are 'in secret' no matter who is watching for they are absorbed in love of God and of those around them. They hardly notice their own deeds and rarely remember them.

*Dallas Willard*

*Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

Fear of man will prove to be a snare,

(NIV11)

Fearing people is a dangerous trap,

(NLT)

Proverbs 29.25

Give – and let his smile be  
enough