

Breathe Again  
Motivation Matters

Matthew 7:21-23

Introduction - When our focus is on **DOING** spiritual things and avoiding sinful things, the motivation is all wrong.

I. Drawn **AWAY**

- It feels more comfortable to focus on what to do and not to do
- Two indicators that we're stuck: Doing right things but not enjoying them; envying others who grow closer to God by doing the same thing you've done
- God does not condone religion

II. The **CONFRONTATION**

- Jesus and religion - Matthew 15:1-3, 6b-9
- Worship is relational - Open hearts with honesty, sincerity and humility
- Example: Ten virgins - Matthew 25:1-12; Not purity or oil but intimacy

III. Moving **FORWARD**

- We can fulfill the commands of the Bible better by falling in love with God rather than trying to obey Him
- Temptation is a test of relationship not self-control - John 14:15; Ephesians 3:14-21

Conclusion - May we enjoy a **DIVINE** romance instead of forced obedience.  
- Ecclesiastes 2:25 NLV