

- Matthew 6:1: Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Righteousness



He himself bore our sins in his body
on the tree, that we might die to sin
and **live to righteousness.**

1 Peter 2:24-25

- 1 Peter 2:24-25 (ESV) 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Righteousness



For I tell you, unless your
righteousness exceeds that of the
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Matthew 5:20

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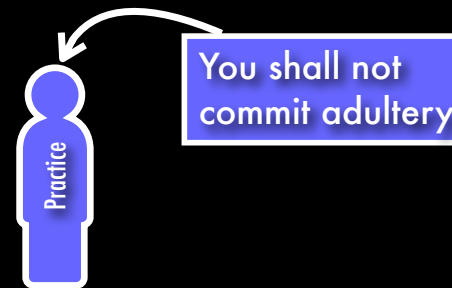
Righteousness

“You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:27-28

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Righteousness

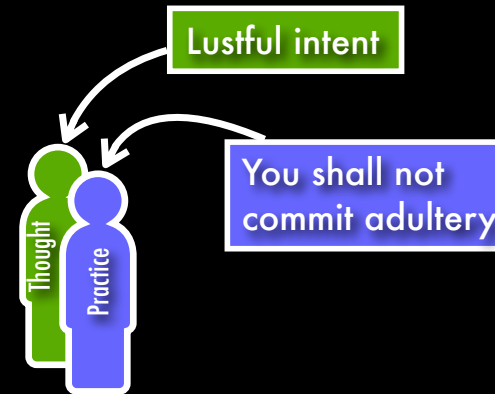


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Matthew 5:27-28

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Righteousness

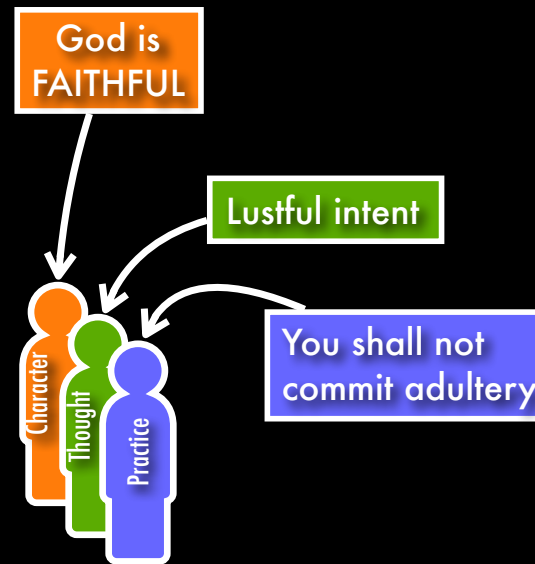


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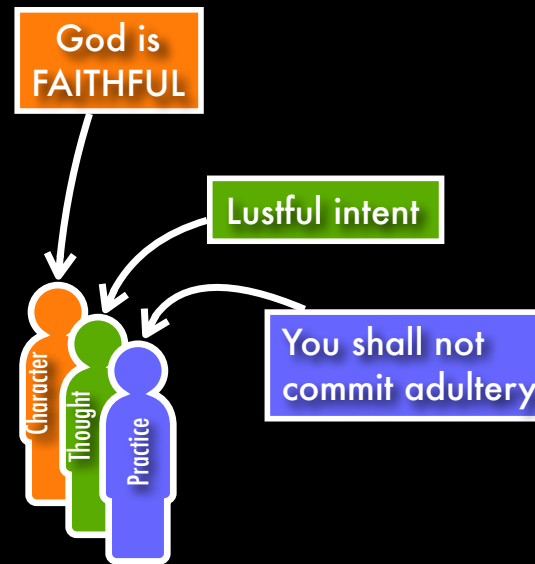


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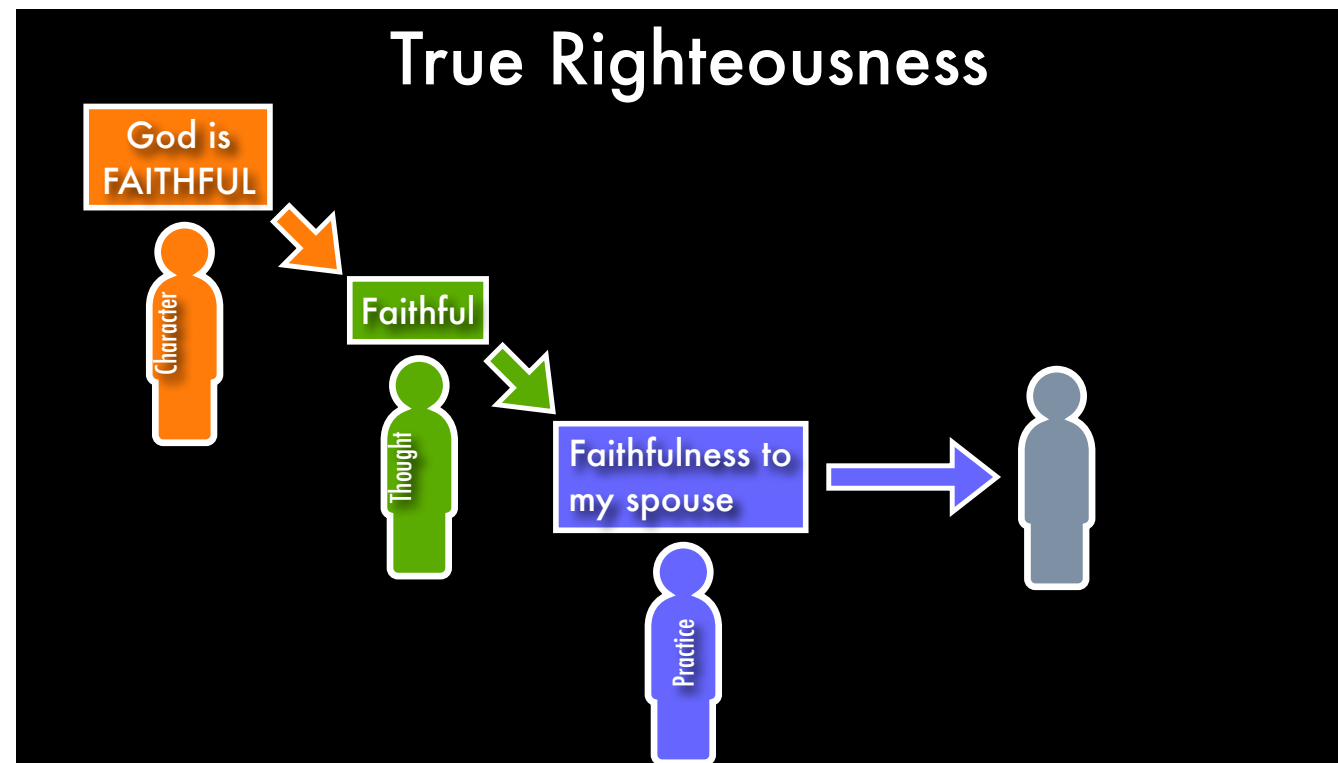
Matthew 5:27-28

- God is Faithful.

Righteousness

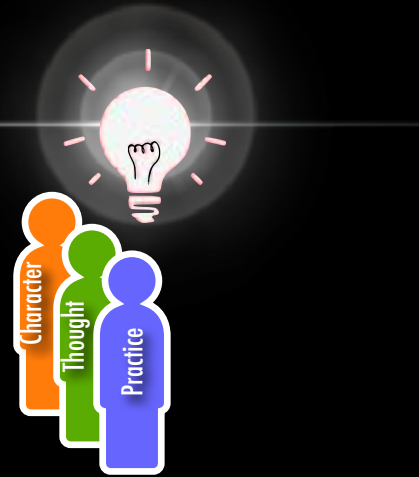


- Jesus' instructions up to this point has revolved around the prohibitions in the law
 - Don't murder, adultery, oaths, vengeance, hating enemies
 - Jesus helps us to see that these prohibitions are not capricious commands from an angry God,
 - Rather they are intended to help us understand and live according to the essential nature of our Heavenly Father.



- True Righteousness springs from first having a character like God,
- And so we must be careful that we have correct thinking,
- And therefore practice righteousness that is God's righteousness.

Practicing Your Righteousness

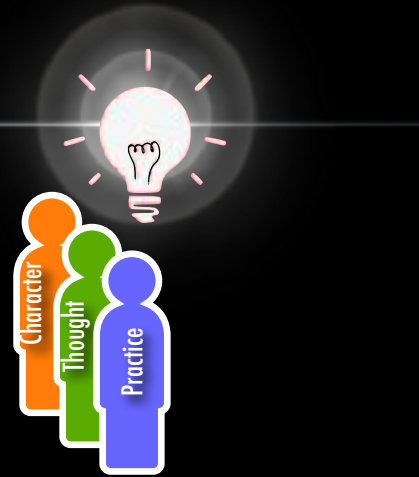


In the same way, let your **light shine** before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

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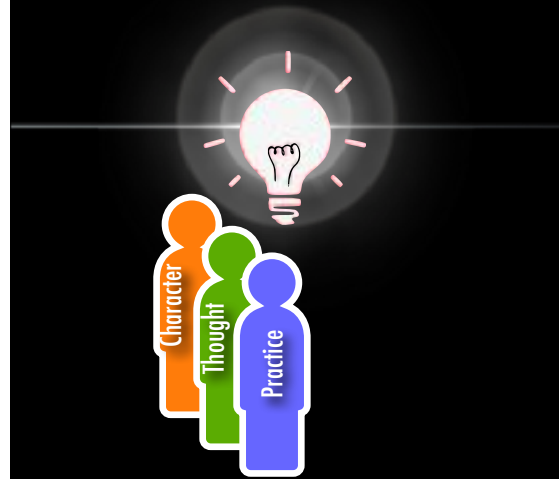


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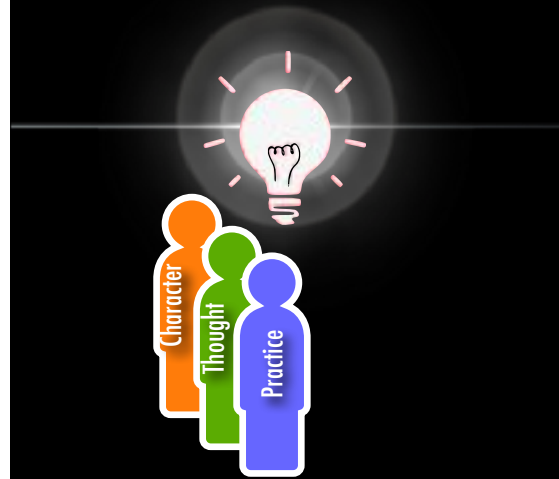


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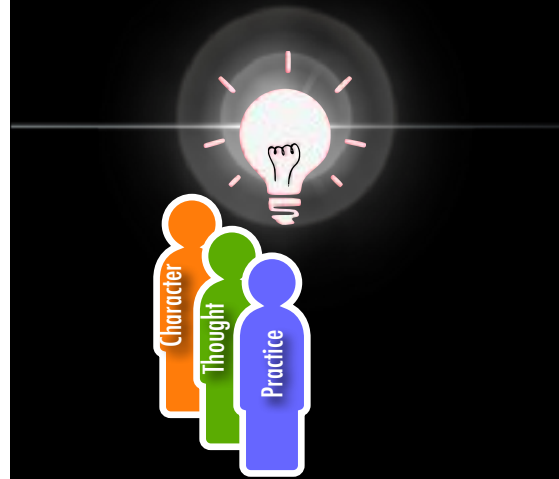


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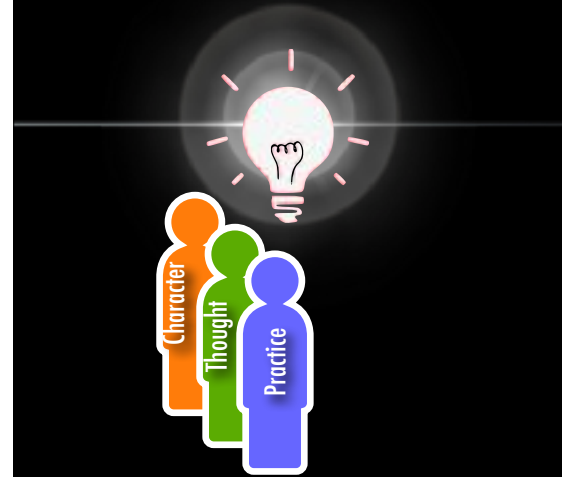
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give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



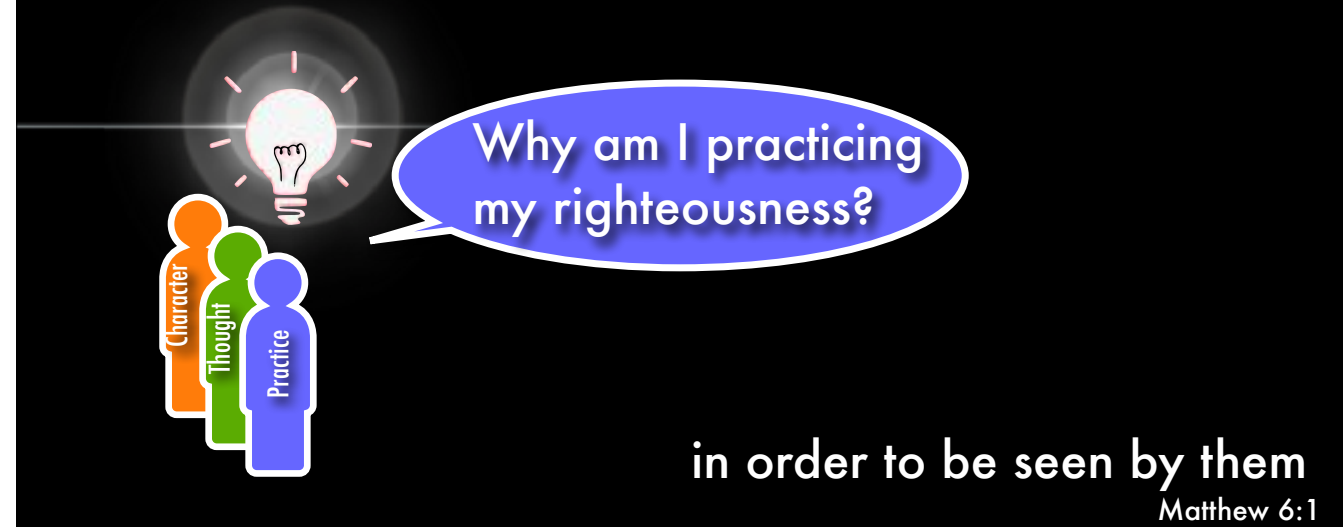
in order to be seen by them

Matthew 6:1

- Practicing your righteousness has two possibilities
 - Am I motivated by glorifying my Father and getting others to glorify Him?
 - Or am I motivated by wanting others to see me and approve of me?

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



- Must ask myself: Why am I practicing my righteousness?
- Look beneath surface, test myself, think deeply

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



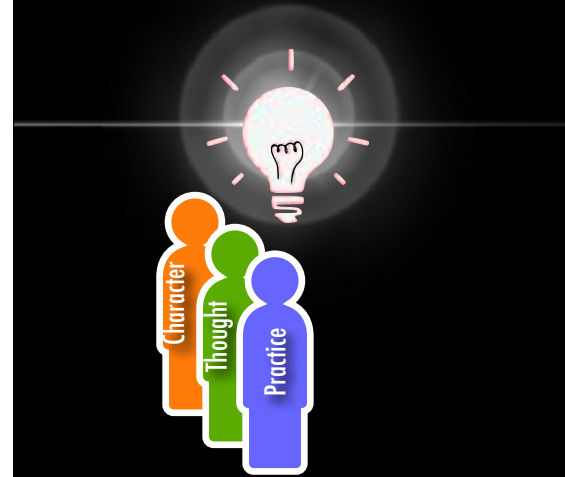
in order to be seen by them

Matthew 6:1

- Righteous for Father, help others see His glory
- Righteous for myself, get others to glorify me
 - keep law, required, necessary
 - fit in with society/community
 - feel good about myself
 - my own righteousness: deceived or self-exaltation
- Is my light shining for me, or for Him?

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



in order to be seen by them

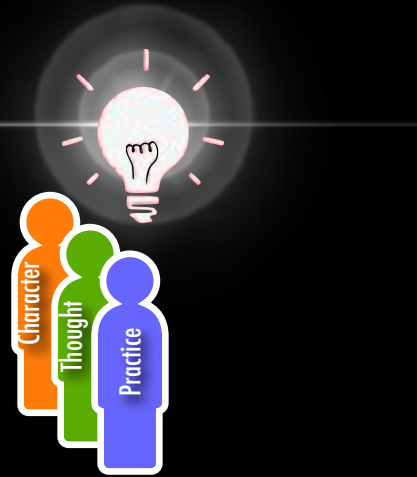
Matthew 6:1

- The Delicate Nature of Practicing True Righteousness

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Balance



in order to be seen by them

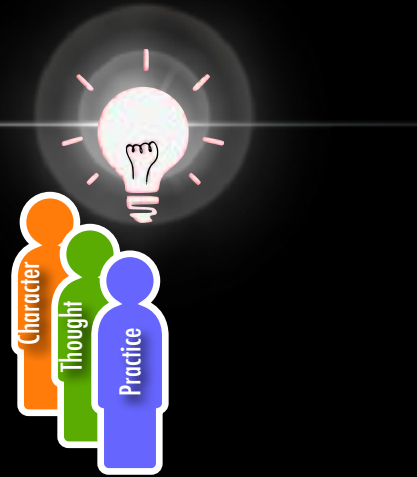
Matthew 6:1

- Practicing true righteousness is always a matter of balance and poise

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Balance



in order to be seen by them

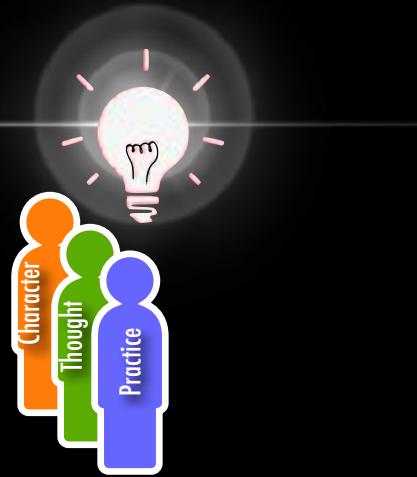
Matthew 6:1

- Paradox of doing righteousness to be seen, but not to be seen.
- 5:16: In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- 6:1: Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Balance



in order to be seen by them

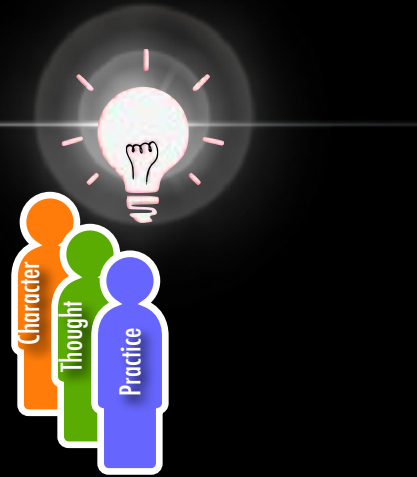
Matthew 6:1

- Only a superficial contradiction
 - Must do BOTH, at the SAME time!
 - My life is to be lived so that the world will see
 - not only what we do,
 - but why we do it,
 - and understanding the quality of our lives,
 - they will glorify God.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Balance



in order to be seen by them

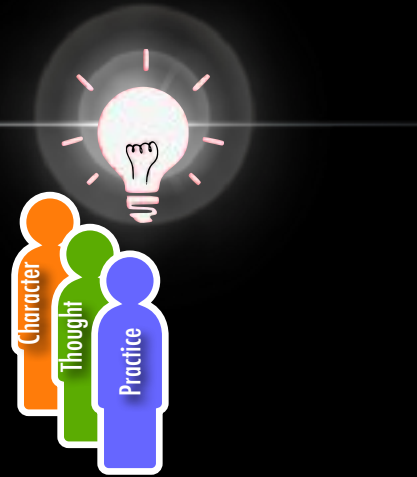
Matthew 6:1

- And
 - I must remember that I must never do things to draw attention to myself
 - I must do what is right, because it is right, but not so that others will see me as right.
 - Not false humility (which is rooted in pride)

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Balance



in order to be seen by them

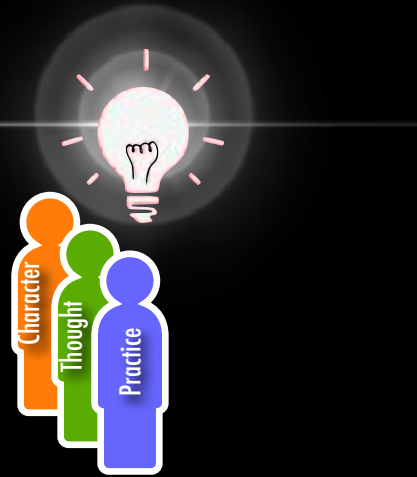
Matthew 6:1

- A very delicate and fine balance.
 - It keeps us from erring to the right hand or left hand
 - “Beware” indicates how easy it is for us to slip in this area.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Balance



in order to be seen by them

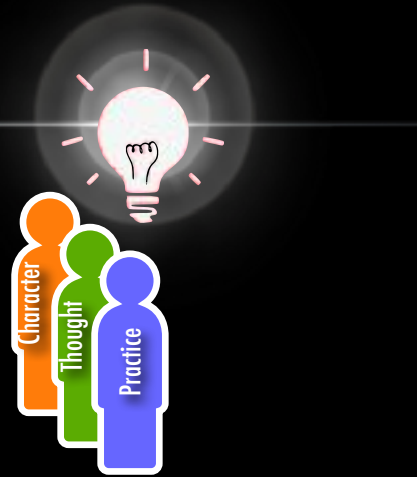
Matthew 6:1

- Many of us are insecure in our relationship with God and Brethren
 - Desire that they appreciate us, appreciate what we do.
 - “All I need is a little thank-you!”
 - But our focus... to some extent... is on myself.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Balance



in order to be seen by them

Matthew 6:1

- Not practicing righteousness because we might be seen.
 - Some go too far in the other direction and stop doing what they should be doing because they don't want to be seen.
 - The focus in this case is still wrong...
 - I'm still concerned with what others see (or don't see)
 - I go to extreme lengths to avoid being seen, but end up not letting my light shine either!

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Balance

Deliberate



in order to be seen by them

Matthew 6:1

- We must deliberately choose to please God, not ourselves.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



Balance

Deliberate

in order to be seen by them

Matthew 6:1

- Why do we do things to be seen by others?
 - Almost always it is ultimately pleasing to myself.
 - They will approve us, think well of us, admire us.
 - Easy to become addicted to the euphoria of being appreciated.
 - Righteous acts that appear selfless may be a subtle form of selfishness.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



- Every thing that we do in service to God and man, all acts of true righteousness
 - must be carefully and deliberately evaluated to be sure that our reasons, motives are pure;
 - focused on God and His glory.
- It's not just about the action, but what we are thinking and who we are.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



Balance

Deliberate

Perspective

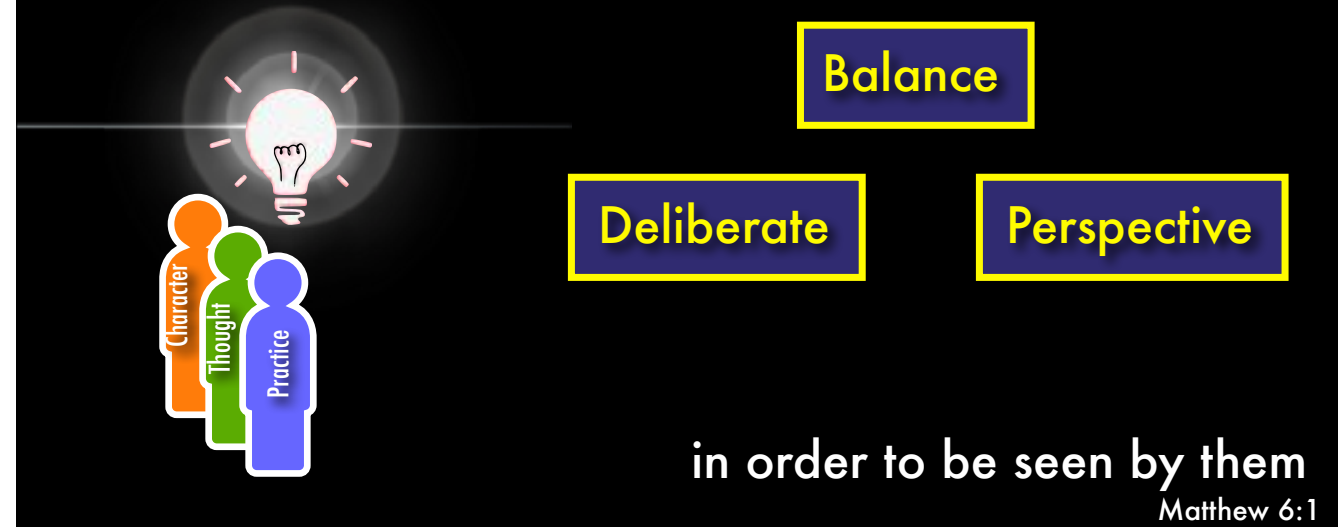
in order to be seen by them

Matthew 6:1

- Perspective
 - The Pervasive presence of God

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



- The Pervasive presence of God
 - Must never forget that I am a child of God, striving to be like Him
 - And so I must always desire to please my Father
 - Not just occasionally, or in specific situations.
 - Always, in Everything.



- Jesus' example: lived entirely for God
 - Words: John 12:49: For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



Balance

Deliberate

Perspective

in order to be seen by them

Matthew 6:1

- Works: John 5:19: So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



Balance

Deliberate

Perspective

in order to be seen by them

Matthew 6:1

- Honor: John 8:50: Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge.

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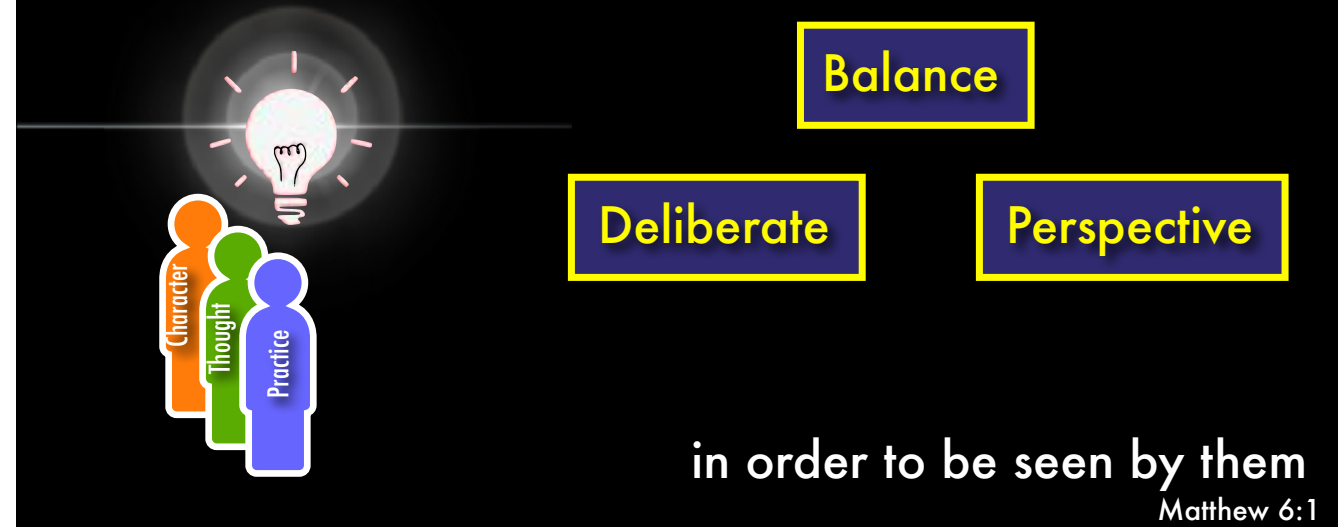
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Matthew 6:1

- God Knows Me:
 - Luke 16:15: And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but **God knows your hearts**. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

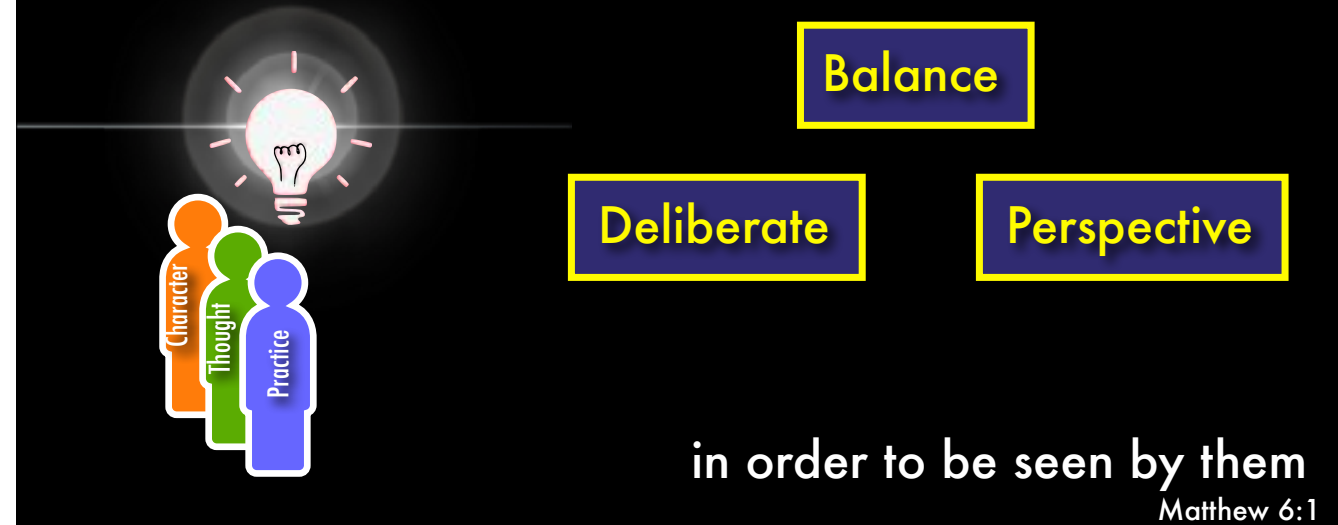
Matthew 5:16



- Psalm 139
 - 2: you discern my thoughts from afar.
 - 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

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Matthew 5:16



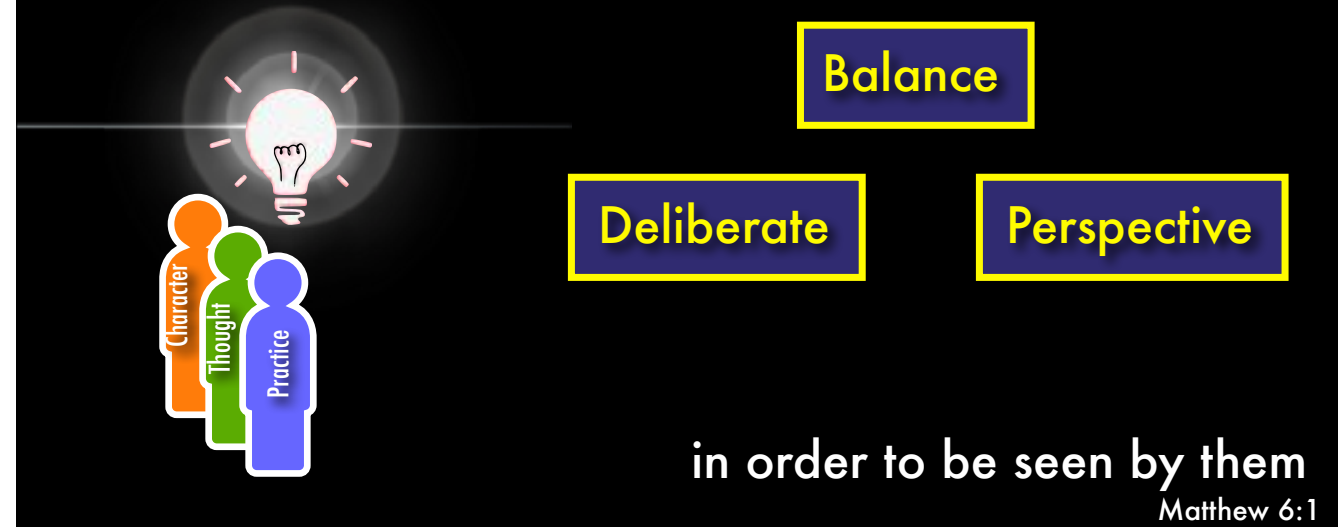
- He sees me wherever I am; sees actions; knows thoughts; knows heart
- Perspective for daily life: I can't hide anything from Him; I can't deceive Him.
 - Remind myself of this when I wake.
 - Remind myself each moment: I am in the presence of my Father.
 - No hypocrisy, vanity, self-glory



- The Reward
 - 1: then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.
 - 2, 5, 16: Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.
 - 4, 6, 18: And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



- What reward would you rather receive?
 - The ephemeral applause of man, so fickle.



- Reward from your Father?
 - James 1:17: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.



- Three Examples:
 - Giving
 - Praying
 - Fasting
- True righteousness springs from our character, thinking of glorifying God, and doing His righteousness.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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Practicing Your Righteousness

Matthew 6:1

Synopsis: Understanding righteousness correctly is only the first step, Jesus now reminds us that there are correct and incorrect ways to practice our righteousness. Righteous acts should be done to glorify God, but all too often what we really care about is that others see us doing good.

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