



The Examiners

...Examining the Scripture daily to see whether these things were so... Acts 17:11

Human Desires

AND THE DETAILS OF LIFE

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If a believer really loves God, it will be manifested by his desire to hear God's Word not once a week but daily (John 8:47).

God designed the human soul with legitimate needs that we experience as desires. Desire is an absolute of the soul that initially deceives us in the flesh and then is used by the Holy Spirit to move us toward God. Both the sin nature and Holy Spirit use desire to motivate behavior.

All behavior is determined by beliefs (2Cor 4:13) beliefs determine what we say & do (Jer 17:5-9) who or what we believe determines our direction and destiny in life. Old sinful nature beliefs are corrupted by deceitful desires that cause us to believe lies. Ephesians 4:22. Without God we pursue gratification on our own apart from God's will. Without God we can only manipulate our relationships & circumstances.

Negative mental attitude beliefs are also motivated by desires created by the Holy Spirit. Gal 5:17. Flesh produces desires that deceive us into believing lies. The Holy Spirit produces desires that inspire us to believe & live the truth.

Both the Holy Spirit and the flesh use desire as its core motivation for all behaviors. We do what we want – everything we do has a desire motivating it. All old sinful nature behavior is based on a lie and intended to fulfill some desire/want. Any legitimate needs may call for legitimate desires but when pursued from old sinful nature motivation become deceitful desires. Deceitful desires cause us to believe the lies of the cosmic world. When desires are pursued without God and motivated by lust results to gratification of lusts. When desires are pursued with God and motivated by Christ's love

results to glorification of God. We glorify God by receiving His blessings not by doing, giving or sacrificing something for Him. There are two basic categories of human desires:

The Desires from the old sinful nature (epithumia) commonly known as lusts. This desire is operational both with the unbelievers and carnal believers. Epithumia produces:

- The desire to dishonor the body
- The desire to rebel against God
- The desire to allow the OSN to rule
- The desire to make provisions for the flesh and obey its lusts –Rom. 13:4
- The desire for the riches and glory of the world -1 Tim. 6:9
- The desire to enjoy the pleasure of sin – Titus 3:3
- The desire to be drawn away from God – James 1:14
- The desire to conform to evil – 1 Peter 1:14
- The desire to enjoy the worldly lusts -1 Peter 2:11
- The desire to do all the old sin nature desires -2 Peter 2:10
- The desire to love the world and things of the world -1 John 2:16
- The desire to reject the Gospel for unbelievers
- The desire to reject Bible doctrine for the believers

The Desires from the new man (epipitheo) the desire for spiritual life is rooted in the work of the Holy Spirit. This desire is exclusive domain of the believers when filled with the Holy Spirit. Epipitheo produces:

- The desire for God –Gal. 5:17
- The energy and desire to please God – James 4:5
- The desire to covet heavenly riches
- The desire to function spiritually
- The desire for resurrection body – 2Cor. 5:2

- The longing for fellowship with others believers
- The desire to gain most of the spiritual benefits
- The desire for the milk and meat of God's Word
- The desire to understand spiritual things
- The desire to submit to God's will
- The desire to submit to God's authority
- The desire not to love the world and the things of the world
- The desire for wisdom of God
- The desire for divine approval

- Thinking that what you wanted was worth whatever means necessary.
- Bringing your foolish desire before God asking Him to fulfill it but uses human power

When God does not give what you wanted:

- Maybe you don't really need it
- You are better off without it
- Maybe you need to wait on God's timing
- Bear in mind God is committed to meet your needs
- What God is providing is what you need for the moment
- You have to align your belief with what God has provided

The believer faces these important principles:

- Do not desire what God has not promised or giving you.
- Reject Satan's help to reach your goal outside God's will.
- The flesh (the old man) produces desires that deceive us into believing lies.
- The new nature (the new man) produces desires that inspire us to believe and live by the truth.
- Evil desires means we do what we want to do.
- Godly desires means we do what God want us to do.
- It is not sin to pursue normal human desires w/in the bounds of God's revealed will.
- It is not God's desire for us to be focused on or pursue the things of the world.

Chasing your desire by believing that it is necessary to have it and persisting in petition to have it is not manifestation of faith but of ignorance of God's will and the pre-designed plan of God. By accepting and aligning your belief with what God has provided for you manifests your capacity to accept the will of God.

Every action, either sinful or spiritual is rooted in a desire for something. To understand our motives and submit to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit we have to discern our desires.

- When examining behavior for change, motivation is the key issue.
- Real change happens when we change our reasons for behavior.
- Changing behavior w/out changing motives results in other forms of the same kind of behavior.
- The human soul is motivated by desire – behavior is linked to what we want.

Basically, epithumia (evil desires) does not want to be under authority, wanting to pursue personal agenda and personal will, while being approved and appreciated. This kind of desires when pursue outside the power and resources of God will make any individual vulnerable to devil's lies. The basic characteristics of epithumia are:

- Wanting something God was not offering or giving you
- Rejecting doctrinal and spiritual principles
- Pursuing personal agenda and personal ambition
- Resisting all legitimate authority especially divine authority
- Believing that she needed what she wanted to be truly happy
- Accepting Satan's offer to assist you to attain your objective or goal outside of God's will

We are born without God, with a sin nature in the devil's world of influence. We naturally attach our desires to false means of achieving happiness upon our old sinful nature beliefs. We have to go through a process of transformation to be freed from our old self System to embrace a supernatural New Man belief system. It is normal human behavior to desire pleasant circumstances and to desire to avoid circumstances that cause us pain and suffering.

Important principles concerning the desires for God:

- Man without God is unable to understand spiritual things – 1 cor. 2:14

- Man without the Holy Spirit is impossible to submit to God –Rom. 8:7
- Only God the Holy Spirit produces the desire for God – Gal. 5:17
- God the Holy Spirit desire our fellowship with God –James 4:5

Our rightful desire becomes undeniable demands, unrealistic expectations, and compelling necessity that when pursued apart from the purpose of God may result in disaster. God commands that we give up sinful desires in exchange for spiritual desires. God's desires when accepted enable us to surrender our normal human desires to His will. In 2 Cor 12:7-10 the apostle Paul surrendered his desire for health to God's desire that he suffer with the thorn of flesh from Satan. He realized that suffering in that perspective was a gift from God. God blesses us in time and eternity for exchanging normal desires for His desire for us. The Lord Jesus Christ had every right to want his own safety but gave it up for the joy set before Him which is suffering in the Cross. A simple check list procedure in relationship to desire:

- Examine your desire: Define and evaluate your motives
- Express your desire: Ask and wait on God's answer or timing
- Exchange your desire: Surrender your will to His God's superior and highest will.
- Expires your desire: Terminate any desire that is contrary to the will of God. Detach or disengage your heart from world

Details of life are bona fide, normal human activities for function in the physical world in which we live. Details of life were divinely designed to be a source of service to God's grace (Luke 16:13, 1 Tim. 6:17-19). Mammon (mamonas) literally riches, is a detail of life of which God is the Source and designed for the perpetuation of human life in the world and use for serving God. There is nothing wrong with the possession of mammon unless the attitude and value of life are wrongly placed on it. We are incapable of serving 2 masters; we are also incompatible of serving the master, the god of this world.

Basic Steps in controlling (1 Cor. 6:11-12) and enjoyment (1 Tim. 6:17) of the details of life:

- Flee from the non-essential and non-important through application of doctrine of separation. This refers to humble

acceptance of what God says are important for us and decisively leaving those are not.

- Actively pursue righteousness: dikaiosuna refers to knowing and following God's moral standards in relating with others.
- Actively pursue godliness: eusebeia refers to knowing and following God's standards for relating to Him (worship and service).
- Actively pursue faith: pistis refers to the system of thinking by which the believer relates to The Creator and everything He has provided for us.
- Actively pursue love: agapa refers to knowing and expressing the virtues of love summarized in 1 Cor. 13.
- Actively pursue endurance: hupomonā refers to a "faith-rest" trust and dependence on God's character and plan. The plan of God is greater than any adversity you can possibly encounter.
- Actively pursue humility: praüpathia refers to emotional objectivity and control in reference to self and others. (pathia = passion, desire, emotion; praus = gentleness, humility) Phil. 2:3-5 - personal priorities subordinated to others.

There are two areas of living for the believer

- A. Life: moral living and normal human existence. Our citizenship is in heaven, but we live and witness in the human realm. Phil. 3:20
- B. godliness: (eusebeia - good worship). This refers to spiritual living. We are not removed from the human realm, but we are to be uniquely separated from the evil of that realm. Jn. 17:15; 1 Pet. 2:11

If there is a desire for Bible Doctrine and the more this desire is fed, the stronger it becomes. Psalm 37:4 says "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart." It is true that God may plant desires within you. He does plant motives within the heart of a believer without violating your free will. Phil. 1:23 "In fact I am hard-pressed from the two alternatives [a reference to living and dying in verse 21], because I have the desire to depart and to keep on being together with Christ, for that is better by far;"

There is deposited within you a desire which originates in God, a desire which is for God and for

the best for His Kingdom. A believer who has been victimized and becomes bitter, a believer who has known disappointment because of the behavior of another believer, or even someone in the world, and is resentful, a believer who has been disappointed with God because of what He has done or has allowed to happen, and is unhappy with God and thinks that God is unfair, is not in a state where his will is in conformity to God's will.

Rather he is in a state where self is originating and controlling the desires of the heart. We do not always understand the will of God, but to trust His sovereignty completely is another matter. When the believer relies on just his mental attitude or his mind on what God should be, and then when God does not act according to his expectation, he will suffer disappointment and operates in the mental attitude sins. As the believer deepens in his devotion and dedication to Christ, outward things caused by persecution, injustice, and even what is perceived to be the unfairness of God and the displeasure of God are things no longer perceived nor reacted to.

2 Tim. 3:12 And indeed, all who desire to live [eusebos] the unique spiritual life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. And, if you truly desire God's highest and best you must expect suffering. To advance spiritually requires suffering. Even when the suffering is due to the law of volitional responsibility it can be turned to blessing through adherence to the commands of God, but if we continue to react we go backwards. God always makes His will known to those who desire to know it, Jer. 29:13, John 7:17. The greatest complication in the spiritual life is simply ignorance of Bible doctrine.

If a believer really loves God, it will be manifested by his desire to hear God's Word not once a week but daily (John 8:47). Daily study of doctrine is the beginning of building intimacy with God.

God desires us all to solve the problems of suffering as well as the problems of prosperity through the doctrinal thinking found in our own souls. Hence the doctrine in your soul becomes the basis for not only perpetuating your relationship with God but also with others. Utilizing the problem solving devices does not mean that your suffering will disappear, but that you are empowered with the ability to handle the suffering and move forward in the words.

If Bible doctrine or the Word of God is not abiding in you, you do not have love for God, John 5:38-42. If we do not concentrate on God's plan and have an intense desire to fulfill it, we will at some point fall by the way side.

If we desire to be changed or transformed, we must behold the glory of the Lord or the doctrine of the indwelling of Christ.

There is a spiritual law at work in our experience that says that the more we pray (or study Bible doctrine), the more we need to, and want to; and the less we pray(or study Bible doctrine), the less is the desire we have to do so. Because prayer (or study of Bible doctrine) is a spiritual function, in order for it to become an enjoyable and lasting experience for us, we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Eccl. 3:11 He has made everything meaningful in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, without which [the setting of the desire for eternal things] mankind will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

There is a famine in every heart which is not being nourished by the word of God, or does not have the desire for that which is eternal fulfilled as a part of your The desires of God for believers are not made known because:

- Believers are lazy to study Bible doctrine but they are busy doing the counterfeit for the church.
- Pastors are lazy to study doctrine but they are busy in the counterfeit for the church.

The only way a pastor-teacher builds up his congregation is by leveling with them and teaching them doctrine. There must be a principle of separation from those who are not positive toward doctrine. The local church is a classroom which isolates you for a short period of time from the details of life. The classroom indicates there must be discipline, high degree of reverence for Bible doctrine while it is being communicated. No distractions, No talking, No moving around and intentional making of noise. There must be respect for the volition of others to learn Bible doctrine.



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