

# Wants and Desires

Do you ever find yourself wanting to do something that you are never able to do? Some change you want to make, or new thing you want to learn, you think about it off and on, but you never really act on it at least not to the point of real dedication or persistence. Yet you find yourself wanting to do it again at some point. Anyone been there?

This is how I was with the guitar. I wanted to play it. I got one, learned a little but not enough. Then didn't touch it for several months because I was busy. Tried to learn it again. Then there was something that I wanted more than a guitar so I sold it to buy the other item.

I really did want to play the guitar, I still do sometimes, what I lacked was desire.

We use those words interchangeably like they are the same thing but they are not. They are similar but not the same.

To want something is to FEEL a need or desire for something. It's mostly in your mind or emotions. In my head I can picture me playing the guitar and how great it would be. It's a want.

To desire something this is an intense craving or longing for something. This is something deeper than a want. It's something that you just can't shake, you have to have it, it is craving or longing that doesn't easily leave. If I had desired to play guitar, I'd be playing it by now. I would have committed the time to practice.

A want says, "I wish I could have this."

A desire says, "I will find a way to have this, no matter what."

Do you see the difference? Desire is much more powerful than want.

You can have good desires and you can have evil desires. But either way desires will likely lead to action.

## **James 1:14-15 (NKJV)**

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own **desires** and enticed. 15 Then, when **desire** has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

It's not someone else's fault when you sin. It's yours. Even if someone tempts you or provokes you. Your own desires are the problem. Deep down you have a craving or longing for that sin. And desire will lead you to that sin.

I think we all understand this but how do you change your desires? By changing your life!

**Psalm 37:4 (NKJV)**

4 Delight yourself also in the Lord,  
And He shall give you the **desires** of your heart.

It starts with delighting yourself in the Lord. To delight in the Lord means to find peace and fulfillment in Him. If you find fulfillment and satisfaction in Jesus there is something amazing that takes place....He gives you the desires of your heart.

This does not mean if you go to church every week that Jesus will put a new Porsche in your driveway before you get home. If you have one today, it's a Father's day present from your family!

Jesus doesn't reward you for going to church. What He rewards is your pursuit of Him. And He doesn't reward you with cars, money, or fame, He rewards you with things that will last, things that have eternal value.

Delight yourself in the Lord. Besides finding peace and fulfillment in Jesus, there is another side to delighting yourself. The Greek word for delight is *anag* (a-nag) meaning to be soft, delicate, dainty.

You are to be soft, delicate, and dainty before God. You are to come before God and let Him gently care for you. Let Him have His way with you, repairing your flaws and issues under His microscope with the right tools.

He can only do this if you come to Him, and let Him. I'm not talking about in a church service. I'm glad you are all here today and I think it is very important to be a functioning part of the church to really grow spiritually and do God's work. But there is something more important....do YOU go before the Lord on your own?

Do you delight in Jesus? Do you come before Him and say "I'm all yours, check me out, see what needs done and do it before I crumble"? Or maybe you have crumbled and you need to come before Jesus and say "put me back together"?

**Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)**

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

If you diligently seek Him, He will reward you. Maybe you want to seek Jesus. Maybe you want to know Him more. But those aren't your desires. Diligently seek Him. Seek Him constantly, be persistent. Don't quit or give up. If you mess up, try it again!

Because it's only when we seek Him diligently that we will see change in our lives. Only THEN will He give us the desires of our heart. Only when are fulfilled in Him.

That's how I know that reward isn't the new Porsche. If I delight In Jesus, I'm fulfilled in Him, and if I'm fulfilled in Him then He is the desire of my heart. He is the one that satisfies me!

Can you think of any other thing that satisfies for more than a moment of season? There are times when nothing satisfies like a ice cold coke, I can drink one and maybe even want another. But at some point I'll want water.

At times there's nothing that satisfies like some good ice cream. But I can't eat that over and over. At some point I'll want some meat!

If we are truly satisfied in Jesus, we don't need something else. He becomes your desire.

The problem is today people want the benefit of life with Jesus without making the commitment to Jesus.

What are your true desires? Stop playing games and stop trying to fool yourself. What are they?

Don't say Jesus if you don't spend time seeking Him. It's just lip service. It may even be a want right now in this moment, but if it was a desire, you would do whatever it took to get it! You'd sacrifice sleep, hobbies, or whatever you had to in order to seek Jesus if it was a desire!

You may say that you want to change, and maybe you do, but it's desire that you will follow and act upon. When is enough, enough, where you quit talking about or thinking about how we wish this or that when it comes to our walk with Christ and we actually diligently seek Him?

**Psalm 38:9 (NKJV)**

9 Lord, all my **desire** is before You;  
And my sighing is not hidden from You.

All your desire is before Jesus. You may fool yourself but you're not fooling Him.

If you want to change you have to go after Him. You don't have to start with desire for Him, you start with diligently seeking Him.

When is the last time you sat down, with your bible, without distractions, and prayed, read, listened, worshipped? If you can't honestly answer that, don't you think you should do it and do it soon?

If you want the fire of God in your life, you have to get close to the fire! You can a t-shirt in the yard and it may be something that can catch fire, but the only way you can burn it is by getting close to the fire, and more likely IN the fire.

In Exodus, Moses desired for God's people to be free. It's because he longed for this, it was something he couldn't shake, it was deep within him, that he went back to Egypt and again and again went before Pharaoh. It wasn't because he was bold or crazy.

Moses wanted Israel to be free, but want wasn't enough. But then he had an encounter with the fire, God Almighty in a burning bush. He spent time with God, and caught fire with God's desire, to set His people free!

This would have NEVER happened if Moses didn't spend time with God first.

**Psalm 27:4 (NKJV)**

4 One thing I have **desired** of the Lord,  
That will I seek:  
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
All the days of my life,  
To behold the beauty of the Lord,  
And to inquire in His temple.

This was David, the man after God's own heart. He desired these things because he sought these things!

If you seek the things of this world, you will desire them. If you seek the things of heaven, you will desire Jesus!

In the parable of the sower, Jesus tells about seed being sown in different types of soil and what happens to them. One of them speaks to worldly desires

**Mark 4:18-19 (NKJV)**

18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

See they hear the word. They probably come to church sometimes or maybe every week. But their desire for other things choke out the bit they hear on Sunday.

What's choking God's word out of your life? What changes do you need to make? What do you need to eliminate from your routine. Whatever you give the most time to is going to take over the seat of desire in your heart!

Wants are in the mind but desire is in the heart!

We will always follow desire's course no matter how good our intentions are. - John Bevere

People say their desire is to walk away from the influences of the world and to seek God but when they don't follow through it shows they are out of touch with their true desires.

There is a true story of a man who was saved but still addicted to cigarettes. He did everything he could think of to get free. He prayed, he fasted, he came to altar calls for others to pray over him, but no matter what he did, he didn't receive freedom.

He invited his friend to church, the friend came to the altar, got saved and at the same time was freed from addiction to cigarettes right there on the spot. The friend that invited him was happy for him but honestly he was upset with God.

He went home and prayed. He told God just how he felt about it, and he asked God why. "Why did my friend get freed instantly when he was saved but I have done all that I can to get free, week after week and I'm still addicted to these cigarettes.

Well....God answered very clearly. He heard God say audibly "because you still like them"

See this man said he wanted to be free but that wasn't his true desire, only his want and intention.

God's people must come to a place where they don't like their sin. And God's people must come to a place where they aren't satisfied just knowing about Jesus but they long to know Him.

What are your true desires? It's not enough to want to turn from sin and it's not enough to just want to know Jesus. You have to actually turn from sin and actually turn to Jesus! It takes a step of faith and obedience.

### **Matthew 16:24 (NKJV)**

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone **desires** to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Do you desire to come after Jesus? Deny yourself....forget how you feel, forget what you want to do, change your plans, follow Him. Spend time with Him. Real time. Quiet time. Dedicated time. I'm telling you if you are in a rut and want out permanently, this is the only way.

Christians have got to stop trying to get to Jesus through other people. Church leaders are not responsible for your relationship with Jesus....you are!

If you look back to when God freed the Israelites from Egypt. Moses as their leader had met with God and spent time in His presence. It was a priority for Moses, to hear the voice of God.

In Exodus 20 the people witnessed thunder, lightning, trumpet sounds, a smoking mountain.

**Exodus 20:19 (NKJV)**

19 Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

What the people wanted was a filter. They wanted to hear God through someone else who was living right, and spending time with God. They didn't want to do it for themselves. It's not because of their fear of God's presence because He's scary. They feared God's response to their sin.

These people liked their sin and wanted to walk in in but also have the voice of God through Moses. They were free.....but their hearts were still in Egypt.

There comes a time where you have to give up worldly lusts, walk away from sin, and walk up the mountain for yourself. Now is that time. No more lip service. Make the commitment today.

Stop relying on others to get your word from God. The word of God through others should aid your walk not make your walk. Your time with Jesus is what makes your walk. Seek Him. Follow Him.

Stop talking about it and do it. Make the life change today. If you aren't willing to do it, then don't expect things to be any different this week. It's time to stop filling up on junk so that you can actually have a hunger for God.

Who cares what you WANT, get your DESIRES right.

Seek Jesus, do it diligently and His desires will become your desires.

Get out of bed. Turn off the tv. Get in a quiet place.

Your life depends on it!