

“The TRUTH About...” 24th Oct 2021: #13 “Desire...” Study Guide

Q. Have you ever asked, “Where Do My Desires Come From?”

God created desire -to move us. Desire needs to be used in the right way.

Note: God does not like spiritually luke-warmness. cf. [Rev 3:16-17](#)

S “The Top 8 Things People Desperately Desire But Can't Seem To Attain” Forbes Magazine Article:

Q. *“If you could say in one word what you want more of in life, what would that be?”*

- 1: **Happiness** - Not knowing what I want to do
- 2: **Money** - or time to accomplish the things I want to do
- 3: **Freedom** - to find my ‘true purpose’
- 4: **Peace** – Lack of clarity about who I am and my purpose.
- 5: **Joy** - find the right role or position
- 6: **Balance** - desire for flexibility while making enough money
- 7: **Fulfilment** - Utilizing my potential... for myself and for others
- 8: **Confidence** - Feeling like I have something to offer now...

1. Desire is God-Given

S Genesis 2:18,20-23 NLT ¹⁸ ...the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”

²⁰ He (Adam) gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening.

²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. ²³ “At last!” the man exclaimed.

- Desire is a God given capacity! (We are in His image)
- Each person has different desires, both Good and Bad.
- Attraction is part of God’s nature, so we are attracted..
- We know what we like... Attraction matters!

Q. What things is God attracted by in us?

2. What Messes Up My Desires

S Romans 7:15-20 NIV ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For **I have the desire to do what is good**, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Q. What does this text suggest?

- There is a war in me for my desires!
- Sin working in us...Satan tempts us in our areas of desire!

[Genesis 3:4-5](#) Satan said to Eve ... “You won’t die!... You will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

Q. Why might Satan say something like this?

S Rick Warren: “There are good desires in your life, and there are bad ones too. There are appropriate and inappropriate desires in your life, helpful and harmful, constructive, and destructive. When you pray

persistently, your desires are filtered, and God reveals which desires are good and which are not.”

- Good Desires – inspired by HS (to succeed, provide, care, love)
- Dangerous Desires – will do damage to us and others
- Temptation takes us where we shouldn't go:
 - Basic things like Chocolate are harmless, but dangerous at another level. Q. What about more serious issues?
 - ‘Good Desires’ can be distorted, to become dangerous...

Q. What good desires, if distorted can become very damaging? Why?

3. What Are Satan's Desires?

S Pre-Fall Isaiah 14:12-14 NLT ¹² ... You have been thrown down to the earth¹³For you said to yourself, ‘I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north.¹⁴ I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.’

- Satan desires to be greater than God.
- Satan wants us to dishonour God, to believe we can replace God.

On Earth Matt 4:8-9 NLT ⁸ Next the devil took him (Jesus) to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.”

- Satan wants to be worshipped! Tried to deceive Jesus...
- He will deceive and kill...to damage God, to become great himself

S “Desire Out Of Control Becomes Addiction”

Proverbs 27:20 NLT “Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied, so human desire is never satisfied.”

Action on Addiction (Charity), “1 in 3 people are addicted to something.” Addiction is defined as not having control over doing, taking or using something to the point where it could be harmful to you. Addiction is most commonly associated with gambling, drugs, alcohol and nicotine...

Q. What other activities can also become addictive?

Q. What are the consequences of addiction to us and others?

Dr. Paul Thomas MD (Book: *The Addiction Spectrum*) “Addiction is an epidemic. Some of us may not even be aware we are addicted.”

- The stats on addiction are startling: Affects +2m people and kills 115 of them every single day (US).

eg: **Justyn Rees Larcombe** (Book: *Tails I Lose*. 2014)...

eg: **Paul Merson** former Arsenal / England footballer...

4. What are God's Desires For Us?

S Gen. 1:28 NLT ²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign...”

- God wants us to have great desires...to lead / excel in what is good.
- God desires that we trust Him and seek His guidance.

Jer. 7:23 NLT ²³ This is what I told them: ‘Obey me, and I will be your

God, and you will be my people. Do everything as I say, and all will be well!

- God wants a deep personal relationship with us
 - We express this in our trust, actions, and reactions.
- God wants our life to go well.

1Cor. 14:1 NIV Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

- When HS lives in us, we have new capacity to show love for God.
- Q. Why are we specifically encouraged to desire (eagerly) the gift of prophecy? (leads to a place where we are truly hearing God...)

5. How to Reset Damaged Desires?

S 1. “Intercept Temptation”... Address the damaged areas.

1Cor 10:13 NLT The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

2. “Allow God In” – Let God bring Newness... Recovery.

Psalms 55:22 NLT Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.

3. “Make Faith Live” – Become Bold by Faith

Isa. 41:10 NLT Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you...

Powerful Prayers: “Lead me NOT into temptation...” (Lord's Prayer)
“Lord take away the wrong attractions...”

6. Discover God's Personal Gift...?

S Philippians 2:13 NLT ¹³ God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him”

Psalms 37:4 NLT “Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires.”

Gal 5:16 NLT ...let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

- let the Holy Spirit guide your lives.

Q. What other things do we often let guide our lives?

Q. What happens when we are led by other influences?

Q. God Empowers Our Godly Desires

S 2Chron. 1:11-12 NLT ¹¹ God said to Solomon, “Because your greatest desire is to help your people, and you did not ask for wealth, riches, fame, or even the death of your enemies or a long life, but rather you asked for wisdom and knowledge to properly govern my people— ¹² I will certainly give you the wisdom and knowledge you requested. But I will also give you wealth, riches, and fame such as no other king has had before you or will ever have in the future!”

- God wants to inspire our desires, aligned to HIS will...'

- He fully empowers them... and often gives us more than expected!

Conclusion: “Truth About Desire...” There's a war on - desire moves us!!