

God Speaks Through Desires

When a person comes to faith in Jesus, they surrender everything. That's what it takes to receive Him as Lord. But don't you think that's what people's biggest issue is? Giving up everything?

Of course this applies to sinful habits but don't we have some good things, some desires, some dreams, some plans for our lives that seem like they're pretty good? And isn't it difficult to give up on them?

What if I said, you might not have to and Jesus can still be Lord of your life? What if I said that some of those desires can actually be God speaking to you? That the passion is from Him?

Today we're going to look at how God Speaks Through Desires.

Forbes ran a survey asking people what they desperately desire but can't seem to attain. This was asked of people who are mostly crushing it in life. Successful business people, professionals, those who probably appear to "have it all". Look at what they said:

8. **Confidence** - In Christ, I'm loved, chosen, valued, wanted, Who He says I am
7. **Fulfillment** - Jesus has great purpose for my life, doing it fills you up
6. **Balance** - We cast our cares on Jesus and trust and hope in Him
5. **Joy** - In Him is unending joy in all circumstances
4. **Peace** - He gives us His peace, peace that surpasses all understanding
3. **Freedom** - Who the Son sets free is free indeed, where the Spirit of the Lord is freedom
2. **Money** - You'll never have enough but in Christ you can find contentment, He provides
1. **Happiness** - hard to attain, even harder to maintain....most people don't really know what makes them happy. It is so dependent on their desires! I hope to answer this.

A life surrendered to Jesus is the answer for all of these 8 desires that people desperately seek but can't seem to attain!

Psalm 37:3-4 (NKJV)

Trust in the Lord, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Do you want to hear God speak through your desires? There is a process...

Just like there was a process to hear Him speak through the scriptures....you had to read them, meditate on them, look for Jesus in them, pray for the Holy Spirit to give you revelation.

This process to hear God speak through desires starts with:

Trust in the Lord and do good

This has a twofold meaning, It's first speaking of being saved. Jesus saves us from our sin and from hell when we trust in Him. See to trust IN the Lord goes beyond our intellect, it requires our heart. So choose Christ as Savior and Lord.

To trust IN Him also means that He's the One we are confident in. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. All His promises are "Yes and Amen!" Church everything else in life WILL fail so do you trust in the unfailing One?

Then "do good", not be good, do good. Meaning do what is agreeable, agreeable with God!

David writes this in his older years after many victories and some serious failures. He's saying don't get distracted with what others are doing, or with what isn't working out in life, just trust God and then do good!

Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

This speaks to recognizing where you are, where God has you and get settled. Hear me out...even if you desire change...get settled where God has you. You don't have to wait for your circumstances to change in order to be happy.

Look at where you're at. This is where you currently dwell and it's not forever...so settle in and feed on His faithfulness.

Do you believe that God is faithful?

Once of my favorite songs is Valley, and it says:

*And I can't see it all
But I have seen enough to know
Oh, You are faithful*

He sings about struggle and being surrounded by enemies, but comes back to God's promises that do not fail and His goodness and mercy that follows me! He's faithful. FEED ON THAT!

Delight yourself also in the Lord

Do you really enjoy God? Do you take pleasure in Jesus?

Do you realize that we will never be truly satisfied with the things this world has to offer? Temporarily, yes. But I don't believe that make us happy, they fulfill short term wants/needs

Our primary purpose is to glorify Jesus, and enjoy Him forever.

When you delight yourself in the Lord, it takes your focus off of what you're waiting for and places it back on the Lord. Now you're waiting on HIM.

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

But those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

I want to give you an example. Paul and Silas.

Paul and Silas are being followed by a fortune teller. She followed them for days yelling about them and annoying them. Paul cast a demonic spirit out of her (yes fortune telling is demonic). Her masters saw that they couldn't make money off of her anymore and dragged Paul and Silas to the authorities.

They were beaten with rods and thrown into the inner prison with their feet shackled to the wall.

At midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the prisoners were listening to them (people are always listening).

Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

Could you enjoy Jesus even in jail? Even after a beating? For doing the work of the Lord?

2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Where our country is heading, you might just get your chance to find out! Paul and Silas chose to delight in the Lord. I can assure you that their desire was to get out of prison! But they didn't focus on the situation, they put it on Christ who renewed their strength and the Holy Spirit made a way...they were freed (and led the jailer and family to faith in Jesus!)

If you remember Jacob working for Rachel. He had to work for her father for 7 years to marry her. But the scripture says "Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her."

What if we served God like that out of our love for Him?

Delight yourself in the Lord...

And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

The focus here is often like this: “when you delight in the Lord, He will change the desires of your heart to line up with His.” And while I think that principle can be true, I don’t see it as the primary meaning in this context.

See it doesn’t say HERE that God will change your heart. It says when you 1) Trust in Him and do good, 2) Dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness, and 3) Delight yourself in the Lord...

THEN He shall give you the desires of your heart. The desires are already there....and He’ll give them to you! He will grant them. He will put them upon you.

Some of you are already thinking about the evil desires people have...

James 1:14-15 (NKJV)

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.

James is speaking of the natural desire to sin. This is what Paul was talking about in Galatians 5 when he said:

Galatians 5:24-25 (NKJV)

And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

God doesn’t grant sinful desires...He tells you to KILL them and walk in the Spirit!

God grants you desires that glorify Him. Remember this from the Connected Series?

John 15:7 (NKJV)

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

I want you to see that action verb there...ASK...ask what you desire and it shall be done for you.

FOR YOU...see this is where that happiness comes into play. Many are not happy because they aren’t doing what they desire.

“Some of us have no idea what we want, because we sacrifice our desires on the altar of other people's expectations. We settle for “should.” We settle for “have to” instead of “want to.” And then we wonder why we don't feel the joy of the Lord. It's because we're listening to the wrong voices.”

~Mark Batterson

There are things that some of you have desired for your entire life. Something deep within you that you just can't shake. But your life went another way and you never could do it. Yet the desire remains.

Why do you think that desire hasn't changed? Could it be God speaking to you to show you your purpose? How to use the giftings and talents that HE put in you so that you can glorify Him and enjoy life while you enjoy Him?

Pray about your desires...what are the things you're passionate about?

Now, pay attention to your desires, but don't let them lead...The Holy Spirit leads. If it's not pleasing to God, you don't do it just because you have always wanted to...that's not what I'm saying.

Look at this like a train. Last week we looked at God speaking through scripture. Everything pertaining to God speaking starts there.

The engine of the train is truth, attached to it is the faith car, then the caboose is desire (feelings). And this is the way it always should be. It's the proper order. Truth, faith, then desire.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

When we listen to what society says we should be, we conform to the world...it's not always just about sin. We have to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. What does God say I should be? What are the desires He has put in me?

God given gifts are what we are best at. God ordained desires are what we're most passionate about.

When it comes to discerning if a desire is from God or not, sometimes you have to give it time. Pray about it, give it days or weeks not minutes or hours. Does the desire decrease? Does it increase? Does it completely fade away and stay gone? Or does it come back stronger than ever?

Because if you are delighting yourself in the Lord and that desire is strengthened, it's a pretty good sign that the Lord is speaking to you through that desire!

“We can be way more concerned about what people think than we are about what God thinks. Then the fear of people keeps us from hearing and heeding the voice of God”

~ **Mark Batterson**

Who’s voice are you listening to?

Trust in the Lord, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
Delight yourself also in the Lord,
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Mark 10:51 (NKJV)

So Jesus answered and said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

He’s speaking to a blind man...it’s pretty evident that the man would like to see! So why would Jesus ask this silly question?

I think most of us don’t actually know what we want. And if we don’t know what we truly desire, we certainly aren’t asking for it in prayer or acting upon it!

What do you want?

We’re not called to be like everyone else. We’re called to be different. Be the man or woman that God created you to be.

Jesus has called you to be free from sin and alive in Him. And if you’re alive in Him, you should have desires and passions that flow from Him.

Things that only you can do.... Ways that only you can impact this world....