

THE DESIRES OF THINE HEART
9-16-18

Psalms 37:1 { A Psalm of David.} Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

Psalms 37:2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

Psalms 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalms 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Psalms 37:6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Psalms 37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Psalms 37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Psalms 37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

The Scripture song in our Bulletin is one that I wrote way back in 1979-1980. I have been writing Scripture Songs for quite some time now. The text this song is based on is Psalm 37:3-4. It is a great text with a tremendous message and promise. This morning I want to share a message from the text that this Scripture song is taken from.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

The desires of a person's heart are quite a mystery.

Before we do that let us read the context of this Psalm together, and try to understand what it is saying.

1. David Warns Us about How Evil Men of this World Would Affect Our Hearts.

Psalms 37:1 { A Psalm of David.} Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

Psalms 37:2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

1. We should not let the evil men of this world cause us to fret.

I must confess when I get looking at the news, when I see what is going on in this world I am tempted to fret. But the Bible says DON'T.

Why should we let the insanity of the world rob us of our Christian peace and joy. If the world will be crazy, let them. Don't let their craziness affect you!

2. Neither should we be envious of evil men and workers of iniquity.

Some of the gain of this world is just not worth getting. Why would we envy men who are bound for hell. Just because they have more in this world than we have is a stupid reason to envy them. We come into this world with nothing and we leave this world with nothing.

You've heard of the expression nothing ventured, nothing gained.

We envy others for what they have when we desire what they have.

Don't envy the ill gotten gain of evildoers, it is just a snare to your soul and your desires.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

I say - You will not envy what you do not desire.

3. We Need To Remember The Brevity of Life .

Psalms 37:2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

Will it matter how much you have or had when you stand before the Lord?

All the gain of this world is but temporary. Why will you envy someone for something that will go up in smoke?

We should lust after godliness, if there be such a thing.

II. GOD PROMISES TO PROVIDE OUR NEEDS WHEN WE TRUST IN HIM.

Psalms 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

When you do right.

When you obey the Lord.

When you live for God and serve Him.

God promises to take care of your needs.

I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

I Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

I Timothy 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

I Timothy 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

I Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

I Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

In this nation we should be the most content people in the world.

We have more than enough food.

We have more than enough clothes.

Yet why is it that people are so filled with discontentment?

III. The Bible Teaches Us How To Nurture Good Desires In Our Hearts.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalms 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

1. God nurtures good desires in our heart when we delight in Him.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

He shall give thee.

Note the condition. IF we delight in the Lord.

What is it to delight in the Lord?

A. TO DELIGHT IN THE LORD IS TO LOVE HIM FIRST AND ALL ABOVE ALL

It is to put Him first in your life.

It is to make Him your greatest desire.

It is to admire Him above all and look to Him above all else.

It is to trust Him in your life.

It is to meditate in His word.

B. When you delight in the Lord like this He plants desires in your heart that He will want to bring to pass in your life.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

2. When we commit all our ways to the Lord He will work all things for good.

Psalms 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

I John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

I John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

This is the promise we have:

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

What are we to do with these verses? They are clear. When we delight in the Lord our desires and our will are changed. Our prayer life is changed. We start praying in the will of God and God cannot but answer those prayers.

The problem is when our delight and his delight are not in harmony, when our wills and his wills are opposed, what we ask we ask amiss.

IV. THE PROBLEM OF WRONG DESIRES IS THAT WRONG DESIRES WILL HINDER US.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT OUR DESIRES.

Our desires need to be examined.

Our desires need to be protected.

Our desires need to be nurtured.

A man's desires are that downward slope which determines where all of the issues and matters of a person's life will tend to lean and flow towards.

The Bible warns to watch our heart's desires.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

There is nothing in your life that is more valuable than your desires and your heart.

In fact, a person's heart is intricately tied into their spirit and soul.

1. OUR DESIRES NEED TO BE EXAMINED.

How do we examine our desires? Our desires need to be tested.

Purpose of an examination is to see what you know or what you will do under certain conditions.

Is this not why the devil asked permission to try Job? Satan said Job only serves God because God blesses him. Take away the blessings and Job will curse God. So what happened to Job? He was tried and tested.

Job said,

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Many people do not do very well in an exam.

A lot of people fail the tests of life, the exams, because they are not able to perform under pressure.

How do we know whether our desires are good or bad?

How do we know what we would do unless we are tried?

Some people give very little thought about why they desire what they do.

In fact, most people do not even give their desires the least bit of scrutiny.

Most people just assume that a desire is something that we cannot control. It just happens to us.

I have heard people make an excuse for their sin, saying:

"THIS IS JUST THE WAY GOD MADE ME.. "

NO, THE BIBLE SAYS,

Ecclesiastes 7:29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

These inventions are our evil intentions and wicked ways. Don't blame God for that!

A. *Examine yourself to see if your desires are under control.*

It is wrong to think that we have no control over our desires: Our desires should be controlled.

The Bible says that we can control our desires and should control our desires.

Deuteronomy 5:21 Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Proverbs 23:6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

Proverbs 24:1 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

If the Bible commands us to not have certain desires, than it makes sense that we can choose what to desire and what not to desire. It is on us!

People make excuses, they say I couldn't help myself.

I have heard woman who complain that they no longer desire their husbands. Husbands no longer desire their wives. People make excuse saying they can't help their desires in area of drugs, drinking, immorality, etc..

Is this the case? I do not believe it to be so. God would not command us to do something that is not possible for us to do.

The truth is that a vehicle without brakes is a very dangerous thing. So too, our lives need to be restrained. We need to know how to apply the brakes.

Paul said this:

I Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

B. *Our desires should be examined to see if they are right or wrong, good or bad.*

Many times our hearts will deceive us into thinking something is good and acceptable when it is not.

Sometimes we will use religious service or reasoning as an excuse for doing what we want to do.

Saul desired to take the booty and spoils of the Amalikites.

So he used the excuse that he was sacrificing these things to God.

I Samuel 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

I Samuel 15:4 And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

I Samuel 15:5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

I Samuel 15:6 And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

I Samuel 15:7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

I Samuel 15:8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

I Samuel 15:9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

I Samuel 15:15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

I Samuel 15:20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

I Samuel 15:21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

I Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

I Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

The true test is obedience to the voice or Word of God. Our desires need to be examined in light of the Word of God.

Do you know the Bible says in many places that we ought to examine ourselves.

I Corinthians 11:28 Let a man examine himself.

II Cor. 14:15 Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith.

If we judge ourselves we will not be judged!

2. *Our desires need to be protected.*

Our desires can be corrupted.

Psalms 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Just as God can give us godly desires, so too we can obtain ungodly desires.

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

II Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Did not satan corrupt the desires of Eve and she was enticed into wanting the forbidden fruit.

Our desires can be corrupted by others. We need to control who influences us. There are some who will influence you for good, there are some who will influence you for bad.

We protect our hearts by protected ourselves from those who would influence our hearts. There are many serpents in this life. Stay away from them.

Jesus said, to pray.

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Idle time is the greatest enemy of us all. It is usually when we are led into temptation. Remember when David fell into sin.

II Samuel 11:1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

II Samuel 11:2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

When we are idle, when we think we deserve a break, when we pamper ourselves, this is when we fall into sin.

Ezekiel 16:49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

Restraints in our life are good. They are like the brakes on a car.
Our desires need to be restrained.

3. *Our desires need to be nurtured.*

Psalms 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalms 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

The best person to direct your desires is not you, but the Lord.

Here is a promise:

Delight in the Lord and He will give thee the desires of thine heart.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS WHEREBY OUR DESIRES CAN BE DIRECTED OF GOD?

How does God nurture our desires?

A. *First Our Desires Are Nurtured when we choose to do good.*

Psalms 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

To do good we need to choose the good to do!

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

As we choose to do good, be involved in good things God will direct our lives.

Choose the good and hate and reject evil.

Sometimes. our choice of doing good is only a choice.

Sometimes it starts out just as simple as mathematics.

1+1 = two, so this adds up this is right this is good I will do it.

Reason Satan went to Eve before she went to Adam was because Eve was probably poor in her math Skills. Most woman are.

It must start out with Logic, with clear thinking.

CHOOSE TO DO GOOD. CHOOSE TO DO RIGHT.

ADAM WOULD NEVER HAVE EATEN THE FRUIT AS EVE DID. HE CHOSE TO EAT BECAUSE OF BLIND LOVE FOR HIS WIFE.

When it comes to a man's love for a woman all logic goes out the window.

Every time we give into wrong desires it is as stupid as Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit.

Our God is a God of common sense.. if it violates common sense, then it is probably wrong.

God doesn't intervene and change the law of gravity just because of you're foolishness enough to violate it.

Devil tempted Jesus with this temptation. Let God protect you if you be the son of God.

When you do good, you mind your own business, and you will be blessed and prosper.

Psalms 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Sometimes we choose to do good, but still our heart is unaffected.

A person can choose to do what is right because they know it is right, but really in their heart they want to do something else.

It is not enough to just do good outwardly, we need to from the heart do right. Did not the Lord say to the church of Ephesus "You lost your first love.. " We need to guard our hearts.

When we delight in the Lord, this will affect our hearts.

B. Secondly, your desires are Nurtured when you delight in the Lord.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

The word delight means to take pleasure in.

It means to long after. To seek and after. To enjoy the Lord like a person who enjoys any activity or sport.

God wants us to love Him and long after Him above all things.

Remember the 1st commandment:

Matthew 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

NOTICE THIS IS THE GREAT CONDITION OF RECEIVING OUR HEART DESIRES.

AS WE LOVE HIM and long after Him above all.

As we delight in Him and desire Him above all.

We then can be trusted with this blank check.

What does it mean to delight in the Lord? Charles Finney put it this way:

We oftentimes see persons so much attached to others in this world as to seem really to enjoy nothing only as it sustains some relation to the object of their affection. Husbands and wives sometimes sustain this relation so that every thing is valued or not valued according to the relation it sustains to the one or the other. Now I suppose the mind becomes so completely swallowed up in God, so "sick in love," and so ravished with the love of God, and comes to take such delight in him as to say with the Psalmist, "Whom have I in heaven but thee, O God." The Psalmist knew what he said, "Whom have I in heaven but thee!" His father and mother, and many whom he had greatly loved, had gone to heaven, but still he exclaims, "Whom have I in heaven but thee?" His children, and those to whom he was greatly attached, were all around him, and yet when he comes to think of God, his whole soul cries out, "There is none upon earth that I desire besides thee." Now this will be the case with a mind that is so ravished, so carried away with the love of God. There is such a dying of the mind to all other things, to self, to the world, to friends, to every thing, that the individual comes to care for nothing, not even to take his food, unless for the glory of God. He is dead to all but God. How safe it is, then, for God, to make such a promise as this, to an individual who thus delights himself in God!

An individual who delights himself in the Lord, will postpone every thing that comes in competition with communion with God. You will not find him making excuses for not attending prayer meetings, for not spending time in his closet, and holding much communion with God. You see persons who seem to be really honest, in saying they would like to commune with God, they would like to attend the prayer meeting, but they have worked very hard to day, or they have so much to do, or there is some good excuse, and they cannot attend. Now I have learned that when persons come really to delight themselves in the Lord, that such excuses don't appear to be really important. Show me a man whose soul is panting after God, who can say with the Psalmist, "As the hart panteth after the water-brook, so panteth my soul after thee, O God," such a man will love to go where he can have communion with God. He will as naturally postpone every thing else that interferes with his communion with God, as he draws his breath. The truth is, when persons make such excuses about reading their Bible and attending meetings, the secret is, they have lost their keen relish for communion with God, and are beginning to lose their delight in him.

When an individual is in this state of mind I am speaking of, when he has fallen into darkness from any reason whatever, although he mourns, he will not betake himself to any other source of happiness. He has gone too far in this way, to go anywhere else for happiness. When a person has but little grace, he will sometimes betake himself to other objects, run into company, and go here and there, trying this thing and that, to get happiness; but when one has come to delight himself in God, and the supreme desire of his soul has centered in God--now let him fall into such circumstances as I have mentioned, and he will not betake himself to such and such places and scenes, to make himself happy! No. Indeed he will not. He will say, "O God, I cannot, I will not go anywhere else for happiness. O God, thou hast taught me to love thee; thou hast weaned my soul from everything else, so that I cannot love anything but thee, and now, wilt thou take thyself, thou who are my all, from me? O my God, I will find my joy in thee, or joy I will never have." Such will be the language of a soul in this state.

He that will be content with God, and will really be satisfied with God, may have as much of God as he will. And just in proportion, as we give ourselves up to find our delight in God, just in that proportion shall we have delight in God. Go the universe over, and you will find, just in proportion as the soul gives itself up to God, just in that proportion, it finds

its fullness in God. If you divide your enjoyment, how can God fill your cup? Just empty your whole heart of self and of everything else, then hold it up to God, and he will fill it with his own purity, with his own love and blessedness. Yes, you will have it filled with the ocean of God.

So in conclusion:

We have this promise:

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

One writer says,

It is perfectly safe for God to make such a promise on the condition of delighting ourselves in the Lord, because whosoever delights himself in the Lord can never desire anything inconsistent with the will of God.

I John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

I John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

What a wonderful thing it is when we delight in our Lord and see Him working in our lives, answering prayers, bringing things to pass according to His perfect will. It is an exciting thing. It reminds me of this promise.

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Delighting in God, seeing our desires come to pass, brings excitement to the Christian life. It makes our faith come alive. It causes us to have joy and as our Lord said, "THAT OUR JOY MAY BE FULL" When God gives us the desires of our heart.