

## THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART

Psalms 37:4 ... "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and he shall give you the desires of your heart."

From reading these devotionals you know I often draw your attention to slogans that many in the church take from the Bible out of context. You have probably seen or heard such a slogan taken from today's verse and manipulated to suggest that whatever you desire, God will provide. But, in context – what the entire Psalm is about – it teaches something else.

Psalm 37 is about God's provision for the RIGHTEOUS. David tells us in verse 3: "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on his faithfulness," which is a command to be faithful to God if we want him to be faithful to us. We are assured in verses 10 and 11 that if we wait for God to punish the wicked (judgment), we will inherit the earth and enjoy peace. Verses 16 and 17 tell us that a poor righteous man is better than a rich wicked man.

Today's verse starts with a command to delight ourselves in the Lord, which you do by pleasing him. You please God by obeying and worshipping him. The second part of the verse promises that God will then give you the desires of your heart. It does not say the desires of your mind, the desires of your greed, or the desires of your eyes. When the Bible speaks of the desires of your heart it means God's desires that he places in your heart as the result of your intimate relationship with him, which is enabled by your obedience.

Can you see how all of these separate acts tie together? Delighting yourself in the Lord, pleasing him, obeying and worshipping him, God's desires, and your intimacy with him? If any of these are missing from your life and your relationship with God, you may not be enjoying your relationship with him as he designed.

You should not expect God to put in your heart the desire for a diamond ring, because that will not likely further his kingdom. If your heart desires a fancy car, a mansion, or anything you CANNOT AFFORD, such desires are from your own mind, not from God. However, if you are serving and obeying God, if you are living out his plan for your life, and if you are working hard to support yourself and your family, you may be able to afford some of the desires of your eyes...with God's blessing.

The desires God places in your heart when you delight yourself in him are desires to win more souls for Heaven, to teach others about Christ, help troubled youth, care for orphaned children, teach a Bible study, lead a women's fellowship, conduct a vacation Bible school, counsel prisoners and drug users, visit the lonely, volunteer in a hospital, and more. God's desires are far more important than the desires of your mind. And, as you learn that and begin to delight yourself in God by obeying him, he will place his desires in your heart and make them happen.

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