

## Study #1

# Dealing with Desire

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## Think about DESIRE.

*What do you desire most in your life? What do you hope to get out of life?*

Desires come in many forms. One person may be geared toward entrepreneurial things and desire to start or expand a business venture. Others want to get married and start a family or have a great influence on the lives of others. All of us have multiple desires that are part of our being.

*But what is the primary desire that is at the core of your being? Which one rises to the very top?*

Desire is a very powerful force in our lives. Desires affect three primary areas of our lives.

1. **DECISIONS.** *We tend to make decisions in our lives that lead in the direction of fulfilling our core desire.*
  - a. Apply this to your own life. What decisions have you made in life that were driven by the need to fulfill a core desire of your life?
  
2. **DIRECTION.** *We are self-guided in the direction of fulfilling the core desire of our lives.*
  - a. Apply this to your own life. Think back in your life and see if you can identify one or many times you changed direction in your life. How were those changes of direction affected by the core desire of your life?
  
3. **DETERMINATION.** *We will go to any lengths to fulfill a core desire in our lives.*
  - a. Apply this to your own life. What things have you been most determined to do in your life? Can you attach them to the core desire you've had for your life?

## Desire and Intercessory Prayer

Now let's connect the idea of DESIRE, and how desire drives our *decisions, direction* and *determination* to fulfill that desire, all to INTERCESSORY PRAYER.

Desire has a lot to do with prayer, because we won't pray if we have little desire to do so.

1. *Do you have a hard time praying? Why?*
  
2. *Do you feel competent or incompetent when it comes to praying for the big issues that affect our whole communities, nation and world?*

For Intercessors, the core desire of our being must be rooted in GOD’S DESIRE, not our own.

*But what is God’s greatest desire for this world we live in, and the people He created?*

**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10 NIV)**

The reality of the Kingdom of God coming to earth is deep, rich and thorough as it implies to intercessory prayer.

*What would happen if that desire of God became your core desire; the desire at the very center of your being?*

There are many things about this world, and conditions in this world that do not exist in heaven:

1. Is there death in heaven?
2. Are there systemically evil governments in heaven?
3. Is the mental illness in heaven?
4. Does drug addiction exist in heaven?
5. Are the broken relationships in heaven?
6. Do people live enslaved lives in heaven?

Do you get the picture? There is a stark difference between earth’s reality and heaven’s reality, *and Jesus tells us to pray that heaven’s reality: the KINGDOM of God (rule and reign) merges with earth!*

## Kingdom Desires

Let’s now return to the three ways desire steers our lives but doing so with the core desire of our life being what God desires.

1. **KINGDOM DECISIONS.** *My personal decisions are made to fulfill God’s desire of the Kingdom coming to earth.*
  - a. Apply this to your own life. What decisions can you make differently to lead to the fulfillment of God’s desire for this world? How does this change your praying?
2. **KINGDOM DIRECTION.** *I move in the direction of my calling as an intercessor.*
  - a. Apply this to your own life. What changes in direction in your own life would open up space and time to intercede for the desires of God to be fulfilled in earth? What directions are you currently taking that need to be rerouted for this to happen?
3. **KINGDOM DETERMINATION.** *Nothing will stop me from interceding for the desire of God to be fulfilled in the earth.*
  - a. Apply this to your own life. Can you imagine your life being determined to pray? Can you allow yourself to be less determined regarding desires in your life that are currently in first place?

## The Intercessor thinks in terms of heaven’s possibility.

*If heaven were here there would be no \_\_\_\_\_.* That burning desire causes us to intercede wherever our feet take us, whatever we see as we go through our days.

It's natural to have struggles with this kind of sustained desire for the things of God.

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

(Psalms 73:2-3 NIV)

*Is it possible for a Christ-Follower to have desires within that compete between the worldly and the heavenly? Can we compartmentalize our desires?*

*Have you ever experienced this like the Psalmist, Asaph? How?*

They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills.

(Psalms 73:4-5 NIV)

*Have you ever said these things when you have felt that it's somehow “harder” to be in Christ than be in the world?*

If Asaph let the tension get to him, and let his mind wander farther and farther from his desire for God, he would have said this:

Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.

(Psalms 73:13-14 NIV)

*The enemy wants to steer our desire in the direction of the world, and actually tries to get us to disdain the deep things of God at the same time. Have you ever been in that place? Are you there now? How did you get there?*

If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.

(Psalms 73:15 NIV)

*Asaph checks his own spirit and gets things back in alignment, focusing on the desire that needs to be at the center of his life. Does Asaph's struggle comfort you, letting you know that you're not a flawed person for having feelings similar to his?*

The evidence of the core desire:

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

(Psalms 73:25 NIV)

The desire of Asaph was not attached to any earthly thing.

*Can you say that with authenticity?*

*How would your life be drastically different if you could?*

*What can you do to move in the direction of that core desire?*

*How will your praying and interceding be different with that desire being changed?*

Pray:

*Write a prayer from your heart as a response to this lesson.*