



# Life Principles Notes™

## The Desires of Your Heart

### Summary:

**If God said, “You can ask Me for one desire, and I will give it to you,” for what would you ask?** More than likely, several things come to mind. The truth is: God is committed to giving you the desires of your heart, but there is a “catch” to His delivery. His greatest desire is for you to desire to know Him so that you will live in the light and shelter of His love for eternity.

However, we often become so enamored by the pleasures of this world that we are drawn away from Him as we rush to find a way to have our desires met—a new house, car, job, title, or relationship that surely will bring satisfaction.

Apart from God, these only bring temporary happiness with no evidence of lasting joy. Sadly, one of the last desires many people would think to mention is to know God better.

Happiness is not a by-product of acquiring “things.” There is only one true source of genuine joy and contentment and that is a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Anything else leaves us longing for more.

**Key Passage:** [Psalm 37:1-8](#)

**Supporting Scripture:** *Psalm 84:11; Psalm 21; Psalm 73:25; 2 Thessalonians 1:11; Proverbs 18:1; Galatians 5:16-17, 22-26; Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 147:14; Matthew 19:16-22.*

### Scriptural Principles:

#### 1 God wants you to have desires.

When you live your life in tune with His plan, you will desire good things. One woman told how she needed a new car. Her children begged her to hurry and make a choice, but she was determined to wait for God’s leading. After several months she reported that her waiting had paid off! She not only had a new car, it was the type she had desired from the beginning.

Where do your desires originate? If they are godly desires, they come straight from God’s heart to yours. This is why it is extremely important to learn how to listen for His voice. Once we begin to understand His will for our lives, we also will begin to desire the very things that bring honor and blessing.

#### 2 There are strong requirements for gaining the desires of your heart.

God wants to meet your needs, and in the process, He also will grant many of your desires. However, there is a principle you must learn. When your heart is turned toward Him, you begin to think the way He thinks. You will stop wanting “things” and begin to seek His fellowship and friendship above all else. This is when you will discover that instead of frantically searching for ways to get ahead and gain the things you once deemed important, you have learned to be content in the presence of God. His ways have become your ways, and His joy supercedes all else. We learn to wait for His instruction instead of jumping ahead of Him. As a result of our obedience, we receive much more from Him than we could ever gain on our own. This is the principle David learned while resting in the presence of God, and it changed the way he viewed life, his future, and his problems.

### 3 Ask God to make you sensitive to His voice.

One of the greatest lessons you will learn is how to be sensitive to God's voice. In Psalm 37, David writes, "The steps of a man are established by the Lord and He delights in his way" (v. 23). God wants to direct and guide your every step. When you come to Him in prayer, He will lead and guide you in the way you need to go. However, you must be sensitive to His voice or you will miss His best.

He also desires your love, fellowship, and worship. These reflect the level of your faith in His ability to meet your needs and satisfy your desires. There will be times when you do not understand His work in your life. That's okay. Continue to trust Him and follow where He leads. From His vantage point, you are right on track. Therefore, obey Him and receive a great reward.

### 4 Delight yourself in the Lord.

Your desires reveal who you are. They reflect your motivation, character, purpose, and goals for the future. When you find joy in the things of God, you will find that you have let go of many of the selfish desires you once thought were important. Instead, you long to please Him. Many people mistakenly believe God does not want us to enjoy life. However, nothing could be further from the truth. He created the very things that bring joy and laughter to our hearts. He is a God of love and His love for you is everlasting. He has a plan for your life—one of infinite hope and blessing (see Jeremiah 29:11).

### 5 Stop fretting and worrying.

When God is involved, worrying is a waste of time and emotional energy. However, many people are self-proclaimed worriers and they miss God's greatest blessings. You cannot live your life shrouded in worry and experience the goodness of God. The Lord will satisfy your heart with good things (see Psalm 147:14). He wants you to reach your goals and experience success, but He wants you to do these things His way because His pathway is safe, secure, and protected by His loving care.

### 6 Ask God to reveal things that prevent you from committing fully to Him.

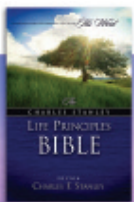
The rich young ruler expressed an intense desire to follow Jesus. However, when the Lord instructed him to sell all he owned and come and follow Him, he couldn't do it (see Matthew 19:16-22). His wealth and desire to keep it prevented him from becoming a disciple of Christ. The same can be true for us. We can allow our selfish desires to prevent us from living for the Lord. We need to be steadfast in our devotion to Him and ask Him to reveal anything in our lives that has the potential to separate us from His love.

### 7 Follow God's pattern.

There are several requirements to receiving our desires. God wants us to delight ourselves in Him. This means to take pleasure in His presence and in doing His will. We must commit ourselves to Him and trust Him with all that concerns us. Finally, we need to be willing to wait on His perfect timing for every circumstance we face. When we follow this pattern, God will grant us the desires of our hearts.

## Conclusion:

We live in an instant society. If we have a need, we search out someone to satisfy it. It is becoming less common for people to wait to gain their desires. Young people enter college and ask, "How quickly can I get through school?" Likewise, a young couple gets married and immediately buys a large home.



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There is no waiting and no time for godly desires to be revealed.

We ignore a very important principle—waiting on God—and have missed a tremendous blessing. When we wait, we learn to rest and where there is rest there is peace and hope. Never rush ahead of God. Allow Him to lead. When you do, you will never be late, never miss a single blessing, and you will always receive your heart's desire because He loves you with an eternal love. 🌿

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