

The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind

Study Guide

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YOU ARE FREE TO DESIRE

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life
(PROVERBS 13:12).

Your desires, far from being evil, are intended to make you strong and healthy in all areas of life. Desire is, by nature, of the Father. But before we come to Christ, our desires are corrupted because desire springs from what we commune with. This truth is very important, especially in the context of friendship with God.

If we commune with greed, our desires will be greedy. If we commune with pornography, our desires will be for perversity. If we commune with anger over a past hurt, our desire will be for revenge. But when we commune with the Father, our desires are pure. Communion shapes our desires to express the character of our object of communion. We discovered this while reviewing the invitation into friendship with God. Living in His presence and enjoying this friendship with Him awakens us to pure desire.

Sometimes we think that if we really desire something, it must not be of God. It's as if we serve a barbaric God who wants to wipe out anything that springs from our own hearts.

On the contrary, God is enamored by your desires. He wants to see what makes you tick. Yes, He made you and knows everything about you, but He can only commune and engage with you as you open yourself up in relationship with Him. That's when true pleasure is derived, when dreams and desires spark dialogue and interaction with God, and the co-laboring begins.

In Proverbs 13:12, the Bible calls the fulfillment of your desires a tree of life. We can partake of the fruit of this tree in our everyday lives at this present time. God has figuratively placed this tree within our reach, and every bite of its fruit releases in us strength and eternal courage, a sense of destiny and purpose. Where does that tree spring from? From the fulfillment of our individual, unique, God-given desires. Desire is part of God's system, His economy. He draws us into intimate friendship with Him, then responds to our desires and prayers, and answers them. When He does, it releases the courage of Heaven into us.

Many steer clear of desiring anything from God, concerned that their dream or desire may not be in agreement with God's will. His will is not for you to live cowering before Him, afraid to tell Him what you dream or desire. If it is not His will for you, He will not condemn you. Remember, if He cancels one, it's only because He's got a better one in mind!

TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT

God is not against your desires. When your desires are fulfilled, they become a source of life-giving nourishment and strength for you.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think people tend to be concerned about their desires not being from God? Where do you think this perspective comes from?
2. How are you strengthened and encouraged when your desires are fulfilled? In what way does reflecting upon past fulfilled desires become a source of courage for you today?

TRANSFORMATION PRAYER

Father, You delight in my desires coming to pass. I don't dream or desire independent of You; I am shaped by Your Presence. I share my dreams and desires openly with You, Father, because You celebrate them and they reveal You!