

Grow Your Worship, Part 3 | Change What You Want

I. What are Desires?

- Many dictionaries define “desire” as something “wished for.” But does that really make desire an emotion?
- Desires aren’t emotions, they’re a type of thought.
- *“Desires are thoughts that have moved from contemplation to longing.”*
- But we can rightfully say that we want what we want because we think what we think. Desires are themselves thoughts. Though they may be a different kind of thought, they’re still just mental machinations.

II. Why Do We Want What We Want?

- We want what we want because we believe what we believe.
- James 2:14-26 *“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? **17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **18** But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! **20** Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? **21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; **23** and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. **24** You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. **25** And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? **26** For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”*
- Let’s deconstruct this with the time we have remaining. If God says live with your wife according to understanding, and you believe that you need to do that in order to please God and have a successful marriage, then you’re going to want to do it. And if you want to do it, then you’re going to do it.
- If you tell your kids to clean their room, and they believe they should obey, then they’re going to want to obey, and they will obey.
- However, if God tells you to live in an understanding way with your wife, but you believe it’s more important for her to submit no matter what you say, then you’re not going to want to do the work required to understand your wife.
- If your children don’t believe that obedience is always necessary, they’re not going to want to do what you say, and subsequently they’re not going to do it.

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