



“Holy Desires”

*“Delight yourself in the LORD,
and He will give you the desires of your heart”*

Psalm 37:4

1. The condition for receiving the desires of your heart: delighting in the LORD

- A. Looking at Psalm 37, what does it mean to “delight in the LORD”?
- i) trust in the LORD (3, 40)
 - ii) commit your way to the LORD (5)
 - iii) rest in the LORD (7)
 - iv) wait on the LORD (7, 9)
 - v) depart from evil (27)
 - vi) meditating on God’s Law (31)
 - vii) obey the LORD (34)
- B. What does the LORD promise to do to the righteous in Psalm 37?
- i) He will fulfill your plans (5)
 - ii) He will make you holy (6)
 - iii) they will inherit the earth (9, 11)
 - iv) they will have abundant peace (11)
 - v) He upholds them (17)
 - vi) He knows their lot in life (18)
 - vii) give them an inheritance (18, 25)
 - viii) provide during famine (19)
 - ix) He orders their steps (23)
 - x) He will not forsake them (28)
 - xi) He will take care of their future (29)
 - xii) He will defend them (32-33)
 - xiii) He will exalt them (34)
 - xiv) He will give them salvation (39)
 - xv) He will give them strength (39)
- C. What does Psalm 37 call believers?
- i) “those who wait on the LORD” (9)
 - ii) the meek (11)
 - iii) the just (12)
 - iv) upright (14, 18)
 - v) righteous (16, 17, 21, 25, 29, 30, 32, 39)
 - vi) those blessed by Him (22)
 - vii) saints (28)
 - viii) blameless (37)
- D. What does Psalm 37 call unbelievers?
- i) evildoers (1, 9)
 - ii) workers of iniquity (1)
 - iii) prosperous (7)
 - iv) wicked (10, 21, 28, 32, 34, 40)
 - v) the enemies of the LORD (20)
 - vi) cursed by Him (22)
 - vii) transgressors (38)

2. The promise of receiving the desires of your heart: God's will

“My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure...Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass; I have planned it, surely I will do it” (Isaiah 46:10-11)

3. Articulate the desires of your heart: be honest!

“examine yourselves!” (2 Corinthians 13:5)

4. Evaluate the desires of your heart: in light of the Word

“Examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good. Abstain from every form of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

“Many plans are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD will stand” (Proverbs 19:21)

“For the Word of God is living and active; sharper than any double-edged sword; it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and the attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12)

5. Pray through the desires of your heart: because you can't trust yourself!

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure; who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

“I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me” (1 Corinthians 4:2-3)

“Let the...meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD” (Psalm 19:14)

“Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my mind and my heart” (Psalm 26:2)

“God...knows the secrets of the heart” (Psalm 44:21)

“Create in me a clean heart, O God” (Psalm 51:10)

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear” (Psalm 66:18)

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties, and see in there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24)

6. Be thankful when God gives you the desires of your heart: God deserves the glory!

*“in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

“to Him belongs the glory” (Revelation 1:6)

“Fear God and give Him glory” (Revelation 14:7)

“give the glory to Him” (Revelation 19:7)