

THE ABC's
of
Becoming
A Better Christian

DESIRES



Key Passages

James 1:14-15 (NLT)

14 Temptation comes from **our own desires**, which **entice us and drag us away**.

15 **These desires** give birth **to sinful actions**. And when sin is **allowed to grow**, it gives **birth to death**.

Galatians 5:24 (ESV)

24 And those **who belong to Christ Jesus** have crucified the flesh with its **passions and desires**.

Romans 13:14 (NIV)

14 Rather, **clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ**, and do not think about how to **gratify the desires of the sinful nature**.

Psalms 37:4 (ESV)

4 **Delight yourself in the Lord**, and he will **give you the desires of your heart**.



WHAT ARE DESIRES?

*A **DESIRE** is a sense of longing for or wanting something or someone.*

*A **DESIRE** is an inner intense impulse that leads to action.*

***DESIRES** may be positive or negative... They can be for good or evil*

When we desire something... it brings us pleasure and satisfaction, and we are drawn toward it.

Genesis 3:6 (ESV)

*6 So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was **a delight to the eyes**, and that the tree **was to be DESIRED to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate,*

*Eve Knew The Word Intellectually... But The Impulse Inside Enticed Her To Sin
Her Desire Was The Vehicle That Led Her Away From The Word*

Romans 5:19 (ESV)

*19 For by the one man's disobedience; many **were made sinners**...*

Ephesians 2:3 (NLT)

*3 All of us used to live that way, **following the PASSIONATE DESIRES and inclinations of our SINFUL NATURE**..*



The Battle Within...To Become Better

Romans 7:21-23 (NLT)

21 I have discovered this principle of life—that *when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.*

22 *I love God's law with all my heart.*

23 But there is another power *within me that is at war with my mind.*
THIS POWER MAKES ME A SLAVE TO THE SIN THAT IS STILL WITHIN ME.

Everyone is a slave in the spiritual sense.

We are either slaves to sin, which is our natural state, or we are slaves to Christ.

John 8:31-34 (NASB)

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, *everyone who COMMITS SIN is the slave of sin.*

Romans 6:6-7 (NLT)

6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ **SO THAT SIN MIGHT LOSE ITS POWER IN OUR LIVES.**
We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ **WE WERE SET FREE FROM THE POWER OF SIN.**

GOD HAS UNPLUGGED THE POWER OF SIN ~ YOU MUST NOW CONTROL THE PLEASURES

The Battle Within...To Become Better

Keys To Becoming Better and Winning The Battle

Recognition

Responsibility

Rewards

Recognition Of The Battle Of Desires

Romans 7:18-21 (ESV)

18 For I know that *nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh*. *For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out*. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what *I keep on doing*. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but *sin that dwells within me*.
21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, *evil lies close at hand*.

Recognition Of The Presence Of Sin

Although *I have the desire* to do what is right/good/holy.... *SIN'S PRESENCE Causes Problems*
At The Cross ~ Jesus Paid *The Price* And Eliminated the *Penalty of Sin*
At Salvation ~ We Are Given The Holy Spirit To Deal with the *Power of Sin*
But Until You Are Raptured Away ~ You Must Deal With *The Presence Of Sin*

As Long As There Is *The Presence of Sin...* There Will Always Be *The Potential To Sin*

Recognition Of The Power Of Self

You Can Have *The Desire*, but not have *THE ABILITY* to complete your desire
Ephesians 3:20 says Now Unto Him, *Who Is Able* To Do Exceedingly Abundantly Above All We Can Ask Or Think
Jude says, Now Unto Him, *Who Is Able* To Keep You From Falling....

Recognition Of The Battle Of Desires

Biblical Example

Acts 13:22 (NLT)

22 But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, **a man after my own heart**. He will **do everything I want him to do.**'

Psalms 40:8 (NIV)

8 **I DESIRE to do your will, O my God**; your law is within my heart."

2 Samuel 11:1-4 (NLT)

1 In the spring of the year, **when kings normally go out to war**, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah.

However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.

2 Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath.

3 He sent someone to find out who she was, and **he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite."** 4 Then David sent messengers to get her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her....

DESIRES Will Allow You To Fulfill Your Assignment and **DESIRES** Will Cause You To Fail While Doing It

A Responsibility To Control The Desire

James 1:14-15 (NLT)

14 Temptation comes from **OUR OWN DESIRES**, which entice us and drag us away.

15 **THESE DESIRES** give birth to **sinful actions**. And when **sin is allowed to grow**, it gives birth to death.

*If Your Desires Are Not Controlled, They Will Lead To Spiritual Death
Before You Know It...*

Your Finances Are Dead, Your Relationships Are Dead, Your Goals and Aspirations Are Dead

Our Desires Lead To Action

At Some Point In Your Walk With God **YOU MUST SURRENDER CONTROL** Of Your Life

Romans 8:7-9 (NLT)

7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and **IT NEVER WILL**.

8 That's why those who are **still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God**.

9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. **YOU ARE CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT**
if you have the Spirit of God living in you.

Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

16 But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you **will not gratify the desires of the flesh**.

A Responsibility To Control The Desire

Control Your Mind Control Your Desires

Romans 8:5-6 (NLT)

5 Those who are *dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things*, but those who are *controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit*.

6 So letting your sinful nature *control your mind leads to death*.
But letting the Spirit *control your mind leads to life and peace*.

Who Is In Control ~ What Are You Thinking About

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--**THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS**.

If You Think About Money... How Can I Get Rich, How Can I Get More Money

1 Timothy 6:9-10 (ESV)

9 But *those who **DESIRE TO BE RICH** fall into temptation*, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through **THIS CRAVING** that some have **WANDERED AWAY FROM THE FAITH**



A Responsibility To Crucify Our Desires

Galatians 5:24 (NLT)

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus *have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.*

Sinful Desires *Must Be Crucified* So *Character Can Be Developed*

This Discipline Must Be Intentional In Order To Be Effective

Remember This, *Christ Did Not Crucify Himself*, He Voluntarily Laid Aside His Power

John 10:18 (NLT)

18 No one can take my life from me. *I sacrifice it voluntarily.* For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NLT)

12 You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—*but not everything is good for you.*
And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” *I must not become a slave to anything.*

Colossians 3:5 (NLT)

5 **So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.** Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

A Responsibility To Change Our Desires

*When You Control and Crucify Your Desires
You Must Also Change Your Desires*

Matthew 12:43-45 (NLT)

43 “When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none.

44 Then it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ So it returns and

FINDS ITS FORMER HOME EMPTY, SWEEPED, AND IN ORDER.

45 Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there.

And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation.”



A Responsibility To Change Our Desires

Psalms 40:8 (NIV)

8 I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

Once You Crucify The Old Nature, It Must Replaced With Something!!!!

Isaiah 26:8 (NLT)

8 Lord, we show our trust in you by obeying your laws; our heart's desire is to glorify your name.

Hebrews 13:18 (ESV)

18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

Romans 10:1 (NASB)

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

This Change Occurs

In The Heart ~ Psalm 51, "Create In Me A Clean Heart...." Ezekiel 36, "I Will Give You A New Heart.."

In The Mind ~ "Be Ye Transformed By The Renewing Of Your Mind"



Rewards Will Be Given When Desires Are Changed

Psalms 37:4 (NASB)

4 Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

When You Learn To Find Enjoyment and Satisfaction In The Lord

*He **Rewards You** By Giving You The Desires of Your Heart*

How Do I Know I Am Delighting In The Lord?

Ask A Few Questions....

How Will This Bring Glory To God?

What Impact Will This Have On The Kingdom?

Will Seeking After This Hinder Me From My Purpose?



In Conclusion.....

*GOD HAS UNPLUGGED THE POWER OF SIN ~
WE MUST NOW CONTROL THE PLEASURES/DESIRES*

Recognition Of The Battle Of Desires

Recognition Of The Presence Of Sin

Recognition Of The Power Of Self

A Responsibility To Control The Desire

A Responsibility To Crucify Our Desires

A Responsibility To Change Our Desires

Rewards Will Be Given When Desires Are Changed