

Radical Faith – Part 3 – Establishing Our Desires

5-Day Devotional: Delighting in the Lord and Receiving His Desires

Day 1: Trusting with an Open Heart

Reading: Psalm 37:3-6

Devotional: Trust is the foundation of receiving God's desires for your life. When you trust the Lord, you become unsuspecting—free from doubt and suspicion about His goodness. This open-hearted posture allows God to plant His desires within you. Like Mary, who said "let it be to me according to your word," we must receive God's promises without reservation. Today, examine your heart: Are you truly trusting God, or are you taking His promises "with a grain of salt"? God has never failed to keep His word. He didn't spare His own Son—how will He not freely give you all things? Open your heart fully to Him today, knowing His plans for you are better than anything you could devise yourself.

Reflection Question: What areas of your life require you to move from suspicion to complete trust in God's faithfulness?

Day 2: Feeding on God's Faithfulness

Reading: Luke 1:26-38; Romans 8:31-32

Devotional: To feed on God's faithfulness means to graze continually on His past mercies, meditating on how He has delivered, provided, and sustained you. This spiritual practice fosters the growth of godly desires within your heart. When you remember how God saved you, protected you even in rebellion, and showed mercy every morning, His desires become your desires. This meditation transforms your thinking and matures the fruit of His promises in your life. Like cattle grazing in a pasture, take time daily to chew on God's faithfulness. Remember: His longing for fellowship with you is greater than your longing for Him. Let this truth draw you into deeper communion where His desires take root and flourish in the soil of your heart.

Reflection Question: What are three specific examples of God's faithfulness in your past that you can meditate on today?

Day 3: Delighting in Permanent Pleasure

Reading: John 15:7-8; Jeremiah 1:12

Devotional: God doesn't want a one-night stand; He wants a family. Delight implies permanent pleasure, not momentary entertainment. The world seeks temporary thrills, but God invites you into consistent, daily fellowship where His desires become established in your heart. When you abide in Him and His words abide in you, you ask according to His desires—and He brings them to pass. God watches over His word to perform it, hovering and waiting for you to act in faith. This is why you can praise Him even when opposition appears. Your commitment to daily fellowship positions you to receive and walk in the abundant life Jesus promised. Don't settle for visiting God occasionally; live in His house as family, where every blessing belongs to you.

Reflection Question: How can you move from entertainment-based spirituality to family-based fellowship with God?

Day 4: Inquiring of the Lord in Prayer

Reading: 1 Samuel 23:2-4, 9-12; 2 Samuel 5:19, 23-24

Devotional: David faced similar battles repeatedly, yet he never presumed on past victories. Each time, he inquired of the Lord. This reveals a profound truth: prayer is where we lay our desires before God and allow Him to confirm or change our plans. The Word anchors us in truth, but prayer provides specific direction for situations not explicitly addressed in Scripture. God's desire may be for you to marry, but Scripture won't tell you whom. His Word establishes the principle; prayer provides the individual details. Like David seeking the ephod, bring your questions to God with humility and expectation. Even if facing familiar circumstances, honor Him by asking again. This demonstrates respect, trust, and reverence—and positions you to receive His specific will for your unique situation.

Reflection Question: What decision are you facing that requires you to inquire of the Lord in prayer after grounding yourself in His Word?

Day 5: Word First, Then Prayer

Reading: Psalm 145:15-19; 1 Samuel 30:7-8

Devotional: The order matters: Word first, then prayer. Why? Because the Word of God transforms your mind and trains your senses to discern both good from evil. When you saturate yourself in Scripture, you recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd and reject the voice of strangers. People sometimes pray and receive "answers" that contradict Scripture—this is deception. But when God's Word abides in you, His desires become your desires, and

your prayers align with His will. The blessing rests on God's desire, not yours. As you yield to Him through Scripture and prayer, He manifests in the natural what He has already established in the spirit. Walk by faith in what He has spoken and watch Him bring forth your righteousness as the light and your justice as the noonday.

Reflection Question: How can you establish a daily rhythm of Word-study before prayer to ensure your desires align with God's will?

Radical Faith Part 3 - Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Psalm 37:3-6** - Main text about trusting in the Lord and receiving desires of your heart
2. **Mark 11:24** - "Whatever things you desire when you pray"
3. **Luke 1:38** - Mary's response: "Behold, the maidservant of the Lord"
4. **Jeremiah 1:12** - God watches over His word to perform it
5. **Psalm 145:15-19** - The Lord giving desires and honoring those who reverence Him
6. **John 15:7-8** - "If you abide in me and my words abide in you"
7. **1 Samuel 23:2-4** - David inquired of the Lord
8. **1 Samuel 23:9-12** - David asking Abiathar for the ephod
9. **2 Samuel 5:19** - David inquired of the Lord
10. **2 Samuel 5:23-24** - David inquired of the Lord again
11. **2 Samuel 2:1** - David inquired of the Lord after events
12. **1 Samuel 30:7-8** - David asked for the ephod and inquired of the Lord

Alluded to References:

13. **Romans 8:32** - "He who did not spare His own Son... how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?"
14. **John 10:10** - "I have come to give you life... more abundant life"

15. **Genesis 2** - Adam placed in the garden with work before receiving Eve
16. **Lamentations 3:22-23** - God's mercy is new every morning
17. **John 10:4-5** - Knowing the voice of the shepherd; the voice of a stranger
18. **Hebrews 5:14** - Senses exercised to discern good and evil

Thematic References (not explicitly cited but relevant):

19. **Proverbs 3:5-6** - Trust in the Lord with all your heart
 20. **James 1:21** - Receive with meekness the implanted word
 21. **Psalms 1:2-3** - Meditating on God's word day and night
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Radical Faith Part 3 – Personal And Small Group Study Guide

All Things Are Possible To Those Who Believe

Small Group Guide: Establishing Godly Desires

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to open your hearts to receive His desires and to help you trust Him completely.

Icebreaker Question

Share about a time when you had to trust someone completely. What made that trust possible? What made it difficult?

Key Scripture

Psalms 37:3-6 "Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and feed on his faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."

Key Takeaways

1. God Gives Us Desires in Two Ways

- He implants His desires in our hearts through His Word.
- He manifests those desires in our lives as we walk by faith.

2. Three Essential Actions for Establishing Desires

- **Delight yourself in the Lord** - Take permanent pleasure in fellowship with Him.
- **Trust in the Lord** - Be unsuspecting; have an open heart without mistrust.
- **Feed on His faithfulness** - Meditate on and remember God's past faithfulness.

3. Two Primary Ways God Sets Our Desires

- **Through His Word** (First and Foundational)
- **Through Prayer** (For specific guidance not detailed in Scripture)

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding Trust

1. The pastor defined trust as being "unsuspecting" toward God. How does this differ from how you've thought about trust before?
2. What causes you to become "suspicious" of God's promises? What situations make it hardest for you to trust Him?
3. Mary said, "Let it be to me according to your word." What does an open, trusting heart look like in practical terms today?

Section 2: Delighting and Feeding

4. The pastor said, "God doesn't want just a one-night stand; He wants a family." How does this challenge our approach to worship services and daily devotional life?
5. What does it mean practically to "feed on God's faithfulness"? Share a specific example of God's faithfulness in your life that you can "graze on."
6. How can we tell the difference between entertainment-focused Christianity and fellowship-focused Christianity?

Section 3: God's Desires vs. Our Desires

7. The pastor said, "You and I cannot come up with a better plan for our lives than God." Do you truly believe this? What desires in your life might need to be surrendered or transformed?
8. Read **John 15:7-8**. How does abiding in God's Word change what we desire and ask for in prayer?
9. King David repeatedly "inquired of the Lord" even in similar situations. Why is it important to keep praying about things even when we think we know the answer?

Section 4: Word Before Prayer

10. Why did the pastor emphasize going to the Word of God BEFORE going to prayer? What dangers exist when we reverse this order?
 11. How can we use Scripture to test whether a desire is from God or from our flesh?
 12. The pastor mentioned people claiming God told them things that contradicted Scripture. How do we lovingly help someone who might be deceived?
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Personal Reflection Questions

(Allow 3-5 minutes of quiet time for individual reflection)

- What desire is currently strongest in my heart? Have I tested it against God's Word?
 - Am I delighting in the Lord daily, or just occasionally visiting Him?
 - What areas of my life show that I'm suspicious of God rather than trusting Him?
 - What evidence of God's past faithfulness can I "feed on" this week?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Delight Daily

- Set aside 15-30 minutes each day specifically to delight in the Lord (not just duty-driven Bible reading, but enjoying His presence.)

- Journal about what you discover about His heart for you.

Option 2: Feed on Faithfulness

- Write down 5-7 specific times God has been faithful to you.
- Each day this week, meditate on one of these instances.
- Thank God for His faithfulness and let it build your trust.

Option 3: Word-Based Prayer

- Identify one desire in your heart.
- Find 3-5 scriptures that relate to that desire.
- Pray those scriptures back to God, asking Him to confirm or change your desire.

Option 4: The David Inquiry

- For one week, before making any significant decision (even ones you've faced before), pause and "inquire of the Lord."
 - Ask: "Lord, what is Your desire in this situation?"
 - Wait for His answer through His Word and His peace.
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Group Activity: Desire Inventory

Materials needed: Paper and pens

1. Have each person write down 3-5 current desires in their life.
 2. Next to each desire, write: "Word-tested" or "Need to test."
 3. For those that are "Word-tested," write the scripture(s) that confirm or challenge that desire.
 4. Share one desire with the group and ask for prayer and accountability.
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Accountability Partners

Pair up with one other person in your group. Exchange contact information and commit to:

- Checking in once this week about your practical application choice.

- Praying for each other's desires to align with God's desires.
 - Encouraging each other to trust God completely.
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Closing Reflection

Quote from the sermon to meditate on: "God's longing for you is greater than your longing for Him. God's desire to have fellowship with you is greater than your desire to have fellowship with Him."

Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God that He desires good things for us.
 - Ask Him to transform our desires to match His.
 - Pray for open hearts that trust Him completely.
 - Request grace to delight in Him daily, not just occasionally.
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For Next Week

- Continue practicing your chosen application.
 - Come prepared to share one way God spoke to you about your desires.
 - Read Psalm 37 in its entirety and note other verses that stand out.
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Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to group members who may be struggling with unanswered prayers or unfulfilled desires. Encourage faith and patience. Be careful about casting doubt on God's faithfulness.
- Emphasize that God's timing is perfect, even when we don't understand it.
- Keep the discussion focused on God's faithfulness.
- Celebrate testimonies of God's past faithfulness to build group faith.