

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

This Scripture messes with me... Did you ever wonder about where your desires come from? I've been thinking and musing about desire, motivation, drive and craving for awhile. The basic definition of desire is...***a strong feeling for a person, object or outcome***. Desire is connected to longing, craving, wanting...and (according to many philosophers) ***the fundamental motivation of all human action***. (It's why we do stuff)

The same philosophers break down this human desire into three categories...***we desire security, belonging, and purpose (for our lives)***...these have many sub-categories like ***the desire for truth, for love, for goodness and for beauty***...our hearts ache for these...to know we're safe, that we belong, that we matter...in truth, we can't live without them. Anything less is just existing.

For me to wrap my mind around this I break it down to two thoughts...***the desire to know and be known***. This is the core of all human beings...security; belonging, purpose, beauty, love, truth and goodness are all contained in those two desires.

However, the desire to know and be known can only be fulfilled through a living and deep relationship with a Triune God. Only a relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit can answer that ache inside all of us. This is why we spending a lot of time discovering this person we call the Holy Spirit...to know His desires, His motivation and His intent...what He craves because in doing so we discover ourselves.

So questions begin to challenge me...Why do I want a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit? What do I desire? What motivates the desire of my heart?

If we make life about just becoming powerful...if it's our heart, our focus...we're missing...someone. When human beings seek power, life becomes all about laws, rules and how to retain that power. Life becomes chaotic and selfish. When we seek relationship with God, life becomes about freedom and power is released through us, not held on to. Life is about Him, not what we can get from Him.

Life makes sense when we live this way...when we desire the heart of God above all else.

Paul teaches about this in 1 Corinthians 12

Paul had his hands full with the Corinthian church. The Corinthians had a huge problem with being self-seeking, self-serving, just being selfish. In fact, the whole book of 1 Corinthians can be seen as one long exhortation to them to stop being selfish and start loving each other. In their excitement over their gifts, they'd lost sight of the giver Himself and why the gifts are important. So he is attempting to re-align the desires of their heart...to line up with the Holy Spirit

I think we can see Paul outline 4 desires of the Holy Spirit in chapter 12

- Desire the common good
- Desire unity (Jesus prayed for this- John 17:21)
- Desire the gifts
- Desire a better way

Verse 1-3

Paul is saying...you need to understand what it means to live with the Holy Spirit inside of us. God is supposed to be visible in our life...we are to live in contrast to the way we use to live and the way the world lives. The spiritual gifts enable that and we can't live in contrast without them operating in our lives...it's not about us or our ability.

Verse 4-6

Varieties = diversity, differences: **Diversity of gifts** (unmerited favor, divine grace, deliverance) these are gifts meant to free us. **Diversity of services** (ministering, aiding, serving) these are ways that help us give back. **Diversity of activities** (put into work, an operation) this is a recurring work, a plan or process. All these are a picture of the God working in us and through us...the same Spirit, the same Lord, and the same God...**the Trinity at work in us!**

The same God who empowers...the Greek means the same God who is...*active, efficient, mighty*... them all (gifts, services, activities) in everyone...No one is to be left out; He is active in and through everyone.

Verse 7

To each = All followers of Christ, every part of the body, no one is more important... **is given** = to supply, furnish necessary things, entrust to... the **Manifestation** = expression, clear display, gift...of the **Spirit** = pneuma, the breath of God.

Each one of us...are supplied, given, entrusted with the very breath of God in us...can't earn it or produce it of our own power...He, the Holy Spirit is the gift of life itself.

So... why are we given gifts...especially, spiritual gifts? For the common good!

The common good = to bear together, to collect or contribute in order to help, to carry with others. This is an "all-together" mentality...people living with a singular purpose.

Paul is teaching that the common good is living in such a way that honors Christ and profits each other...the gifts help us bear each other burdens, carry each other and contribute or give ourselves to each other...and the world around us...**we are gifted to give.**

The Holy Spirit lives inside of us, embedding us in God's work...the Gospel. The Gospel is the greatest form of the common good. He enables us to experience salvation and because of that we give ourselves to the common good and follow the Holy Spirit's agenda...not ours!

This is an invitation!

The common good is more than social action (could involve that)...it's more than good deeds...the Holy Spirit invites us into a sacred cause of knowing Him. He points to Christ and implores us, encourages us to live like Him, so we choose a life worthy of the Gospel.

This is so against the world's mentality of "what's in it for me?" or "what about me". Paul states in Philippians 1:21.

For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.

Either way I'm with Jesus...real life is only done through Him...the common good is the Holy Spirit work in us.

Jesus went around doing good (Acts 10:38) not pad His resume with volunteer work... the Gospel was His life...lets read...

*And you know that God **anointed (smeared with oil, set apart for service)** Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with **power (miracle power, mighty ability)**. Then Jesus went around doing **good (exercising benefits, render exceptional service)** and **healing (curing)** all who were **oppressed (dominated)** by the devil, for **God was with him**.*

What did Jesus do when God was with Him? Luke 4:18-19 (These are the same things we are called to) He proclaimed Good News to the poor, He freed captives from sin, worry, fear, doubt, healed the spiritually and physically blind... always in the context of the Gospel.

When Jesus healed a paralyzed man in the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-14), he immediately explained the healing by teaching everyone around Him (5:16-47). One day Jesus makes a "common good decision" by feeding 5,000 folk, but then he also tells everybody that he is the bread of life. When He heals a blind man, He follows with a teaching on spiritual blindness. Jesus always connected his actions and his words with the Father's mission.

These are what the gifts are for... knowing the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in us...the fruit of the common good. Good works are always part of the Gospel; they are the result of walking in the Spirit.

Philippians 2:13 puts it this way...

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

God gives us the desires of our heart...His desires become ours; fueling our desire with power to do His will...the common good simply mirrors His heart. The Spirit motivates, drives and increases our craving to follow His lead

Hebrews 10:24-25

*“And let us **consider (understand, observe fully)** how to **stir (incite, stimulate, irritate)** up one another to love and **good (beautiful, valuable, worthy)** works, not **neglecting (leave behind)** to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging (call near, invite, comfort, desire)** one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

The Holy Spirit...will move us to love and do good works...He will give us wisdom how to stir each other up, to incite us and maybe even...irritate us to do these beautiful, valuable worthy works...the common good.

Back to the question of desire...why do I want more of the Spirit? This is what I wrote...this is my prayer...

I want to live a life radically different to the one I live today. I want the Holy Spirit, His gifts, His power to flow through me because I'm so close to Him that He smears me with anointing. I want to drip Jesus wherever I go because of that intimacy. I want to be so connected that I feel His breath move through me, working on me physically, mentally and spiritually. I desire His for presence in my life to elevate my decisions; attitudes and behavior to a missional focus and off a “me” focus. I hunger for my life to display the common good and to allow the Holy Spirit to define what that looks like. This is my prayer...