

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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### **Wants And Desires**

"I count him braver who conquers his desires than him who conquers his enemies; for the hardest victory is the victory over self." – Aristotle"

"Necessities are few, but our wants are endless." – Benjamin Franklin, the Statesman"

"Money has never made me happy, nor will it, there is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more of it one has the more one wants." – Ibid.

"Constantly choose rather to want less, than to have more." – Thomas a Kempis

"Poverty wants some things, luxury many things, and avarice all things." – Anonymous

Wants and desires are common place with every one of us. It might be said that having them is a normal as breathing or eating. Certainly some things in life we regard as necessities. But, if we are honest with ourselves, those wants and desires drive us far more than we care to admit.

Satan was well aware of the want and desire within Eve. And he appealed to that weakness to cause her to give in to temptation. "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate" (Gen. 3:6). Later in Scripture, John reminds us how Satan appeals to our wants and desires. "For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world" (1 John 2:16).

Part of the reason that Christians struggle with doing the will of God is that they allow their wants and desires to take precedence over God's will. For example, something such as a sporting event or recreational event, or something even with family, will conflict with the assembly of the saints in worship. What often wins out is the wants and desires. What God wants and desires doesn't seem to be all that important compared to our own.

When we learn to put God's desires before our own, we then take one giant step in our spirituality. But be careful here, for even some in the church today who have been Christians for some time, are still getting tripped up with putting what they want before God.

Certainly the principle of Matthew 6:33 is helpful here: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."