

DESIRE

(ἐπιπόθησι)

*An earnest desire, a longing for, a vehement yearning.
(2 Corinthians 7:7)*

I've heard so many people inquire, "Why isn't God satisfying the desires of my heart?" The reason may simply be that they are your desires and not desires that God has planted in your heart. We were all created with the ability to dream and plan, and when our desires are submitted to the Lord, they add to the excitement of our Christian walk. But how do we distinguish between our own desires and God-given ones? And what should we do when our dreams are not fulfilled. Psalm 37:4 says, **"Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart."** Does this passage mean that the Father gives us whatever we want? No. Because not every desire is Christlike, even good aspirations can be wrong for a particular individual.

King David learned that one way to distinguish our desires from God-given ones is to follow the Lord's guidance. You have the Holy Spirit living in you, so ask Him to reveal which desires are in line with God's plan for your life. The apostle Paul spend a lot of time alone, learning from the Spirit, before beginning his ministry (Galatians 1:13-23). Like Paul, find out what the Father wants for you. Ask yourself, "Why do I believe this desire is from God and not just from myself?" And remember, the most important thing to do is 'wait'. Rushing into desires can be very dangerous, and especially when your dreams have not come to fruition. Therefore, surrender the yearning to the Lord. In other words, delight yourself in Him, commit to love and serve Him, even if your wishes never come to pass. Sometimes, waiting prompts us to surrender a specific desire, and this may be exactly what God wants!

But what if we believe that God gave us a desire but never granted it? There are a couple of factors here. One is the possibility that you simply need to continue waiting. Second, you may have mistaken your own desire for a God-given one. Our wishes can be so strong that we think we have heard from God, when in actuality, we've been misled by our own longings. And often, it's hard to tell whether you misunderstood God's guidance or you're in a holding pattern until His blessing arrives.

However, in either case, your response should be the same: surrender everything to the Lord. Commit to love and obey Him even if He never fulfills your longings. Reaffirm that your joy is in God, not in the achievement of your dreams. If your desires are really from the Lord, He will eventually bring them to fruition -if you remain obedient to Him. But whatever you do, don't attempt to realize your dreams without the Lord's involvement.

The next verse in Psalm 37 says, **"Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."** Handing it over to God, and then trusting Him with it, guarantees it's fulfillment.