

life on the Rock – the foundation for spiritual Maturity

January 24 - Desire

“I desire to do your will, my God; Your law is within my heart.”

Psalm 40:8 NIV

Everything we want to do begins with this deep craving to do it.

It starts way down deep within us and awakens our soul. It's the *“lightbulb over the head”* moment, the *“ah ha”* times and the *“I have to!”* awakening of our very being.

From there this *“thing we gotta do”* won't escape us until we've given in and have taken the plunge.

- What is this deep craving?
- Why did God make us this way?
- How can we benefit from it?
- And, what does this have to do with our spiritual development?

These four questions will help to move us through this message, and ultimately become the baseline for all we do from here on.

Did you know, that...

DESIRE IS THE FIRST STEP IN BUILDING A LIFE ON THE ROCK OF JESUS CHRIST – BEGINNING OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH?

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That's right, desire comes BEFORE we begin our journey with Jesus.

It's not very easy to separate the initial stages of how we become followers of Jesus because they seem to happen at the very same time - but think about it:

Did you receive Jesus into your life BEFORE you had a desire to trust him with your future?

If you did you may have had difficulty getting your faith in gear, so to speak.

Listen to Paul take on this from **Romans 10:8b-10** (NIV):

[Righteousness says,] *“The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,’ that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”*

You see, it is at the heart, or the core of a person's being – your soul – where salvation begins (that moment when your soul was “justified” to enter the kingdom of God).

This is that place deep down in us where desire is born from the moment when we understand something is there for the taking and then makes itself know through our actions, or decisions.

We decide for Jesus, based on the premise that this message about the grace and love of God through His Son, Jesus is there for the taking.

Then, because of that desire, we start acting in ways that will please God.

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

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

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SO, WITHOUT DESIRE, FAITH CANNOT MOVE.

But with desire, our faith has a purpose, and our lives are then focused on this one understanding and deep-down craving that we have – and that is to follow Jesus.

Yes, we desperately need people – the teachers, preachers, parents, and others – to speak the word of God and live examples of faith.

But everyone must respond **out of desire** to implement action.

So, to underscore this point Paul continued in **verses 14 and 15** of this same chapter:

*“...how can they **call on him** to save them unless they believe in him? [Good question – they need a desire, right?]*

*And how can they **believe in him** if they have never heard about him? [another good point. People will believe in the next best thing if they don't know about Jesus.]*

*And how can they **hear about him** unless someone tells them? [And that someone is a person of faith – or maybe, like Paul and others, God Himself. But remember, all God's faithful are God's ambassadors – representing Him as if we were speaking for Him.]*

*¹⁵ And how will anyone **go and tell them** without being sent? [What a revelation! It is God Who sends the faithful workers into the harvest. We, who belong to Jesus are those who are sent.]*

That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!” (Rom. 10:14-15 NLT)”

We get some great nuggets of truth in this passage of scripture related to salvation:

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1. **It starts with the truth about Jesus** – the redeemer who put a death sentence on death, so we could live eternally;
2. **Then a calling falls upon the heart of faithful people of God** (with beautiful feet, I might add) to share this truth;
3. **Then the words of the life of Christ fall on the hearts of unbelievers** and they are changed.
4. **Then they believe with their very soul that God DID raise Jesus from the grave**, a grave that He filled because of our sins, and that desire turns into a profession of faith – “That Jesus is Lord!”

DESIRE COMES AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING WE DO – EVEN THE BAD THINGS:

Jeremiah 7:24 (NLT)

*“But my people would not listen to me. They kept doing whatever they wanted, following the stubborn **desires** of their **evil** hearts. They went backward instead of forward.”*

Bad things haunt us because of the desires of our natural selves.

As we develop God desires that we all will develop and progress in a relationship with Him.

The prophet Jeremiah says that **God’s people went backward instead of developing in their faith and growing.**

Romans 7:5 (NLT)

*“When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful **desires** were at work within us, and the law aroused these **evil desires** that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death.”*

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In our life before we belonged to Jesus, we were enticed by the lust of the world – for fleshly pleasures, fame, riches, and power – all of which together had written our death sentence.

We all still live in a flesh existence.

But God has given us His presence to help control our natural desires.

Paul cried out,

“Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.” **Romans 7:24-25** (NLT)

Paul continues, *“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves.”* **Galatians 5:16** (NLT)

The Spirit of God gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires (Galatians 5:17-24).

When you desire to live for Jesus, you begin to look like Him.

The Galatian letter lists nine characteristics of Jesus in a life that wants Him to oversee our journey:

You will start to show love, Joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

This is what we call the fruit of the Holy Spirit who lives within every Christ-follower.

What is your heart’s desire?

Are you satisfying the natural itch, or are you fulfilled by the desires of a life guided by God.

Do you feel like David when he said, “I desire to do the will of God”?

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Is that the craving within?

Psalm 37:4 says, “Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

If you have an interest in becoming a follower of Jesus, because deep down you want the life of assurance and hope that comes with know Him and following Him.

Then let us know.

Text the word BELIEVE to the number at the bottom of the screen.

There are other options offered to cover a variety of needs that you may have.

Please let us engage with you in the process of living a life on the stable foundation of Jesus Christ – a Life on the Rock!