

# DESIRE

Desires are feelings that compel you to serve and glorify God in a particular way. They could include a passion for something good and creative or relate to something wrong with the world that breaks your heart. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you think about desire.

## **Not all desire is good.**

*"The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?  
Jeremiah 17:9*

We have many God-given desires but not every desire comes from God. This is because our heart has been corrupted by sin. Sometimes we follow God and other times we follow our sinful desires. We can't assume that because we have a desire for something it is necessarily from God. We need to check our desires against God's Word. If you are unsure if a particular desire aligns with God's will, seek out wise counsel from a mature Christian.

## **Desire is often birthed by a "Holy Discontent" to right a wrong, meet a need, or serve a cause.**

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8*

Our world is broken. Aspects of that brokenness should break your heart as they do God's. While recognizing that there are many types of brokenness in the world that we would want to see remedied, there are some that really tug at our hearts more than others. It could be something like hunger, human trafficking, or orphans. Sometimes there is a burning desire around a particular issue or cause that we feel compelled to do something about.

## **Desire makes you come alive.**

*But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. Jeremiah 20:9*

There may be a cause you are involved in that demands a lot of time and energy from you, yet even though you are physically and/or mentally worn out after serving, you are energized by having made a difference.

## **Desire varies and is part of the unique way you express your love for God.**

*Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4*

God created us with a free will. What He wants above all else is for us to love Him back with our heart, mind, soul, and strength. One of the ways we love God is through obedience. Another is through a life lived in such a way that it becomes a "thank you" or even "love note" to God. God does not prescribe every aspect of your life. You can use your desires to create a unique masterpiece with your life, that reflects your unique DESIGN as you express your love in honor and service to Him.

## **Desire is meant to be used in service to the King.**

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23*

We were created to serve our King. Our greatest fulfillment and greatest lasting accomplishments will come from doing things that build His Kingdom and give glory to God. While the temptation will often be to use our desires to serve ourselves, we don't live out our calling until we've put them in service to glorify God.

**QUESTIONS THAT HELP YOU UNCOVER YOUR DESIRE INCLUDE:**

What brokenness do you see (in those closest to you, in your community, or in the larger world) that creates a burning desire to do something about?

At the end of your life, what would you love to be able to look back at and know you had done something about?

What are your top 5 values

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Do you have a clear sense of how your desire fits into your calling from God? If so, keep pursuing it wholeheartedly and developing your capacity to bless others. If not, keep praying about this as you continue to walk through the DESIGN process.