**Desire**

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

***(Psalm 23:1)***

**He will give you the desires of your heart.**

***(Psalm 37:4)***

**Willy says to Ethel while reading the newspaper: “I always wanted to be an actor, and now I know why. According to this article, seventy-five percent of them are unemployed.” *(Joe Martin, in Willy ‘N’ Ethel comic strip)***

**The story is told of a mystic teacher of India who used an interesting technique to impress his students with the importance of the “hunger and thirst for righteousness.” He would take a student into the river, plunge his head under the water and forcibly hold it there until his lungs were fairly bursting. Finally, after letting him up, the teacher would ask, “What were you thinking about? What did you want more than anything?” The student would always reply, “Air! I wanted air!” “Ah,” the teacher would say, “and when you want God as much as you just wanted air, you will be filled.” *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 65)***

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**Dolly says to her mother: “Mary had a little lamb. All I want is a little hamster.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Perhaps, Bramlett’s greatest testimony, however, is his son Don. Don still has a Christmas letter that he penned in an elementary school classroom many years ago. The subject was “All I Want For Christmas Is . . .” Here is what young Don Bramlett wrote: “All I want for Christmas is for my family and me to have a very Merry Christmas like the other two Christmases we’ve had. My dad was out drinking and fighting three years ago and we were all worrying about him and wondering when he would come back. “While opening our presents, we were so miserable through those years. Now we have a happy and merry Christmas after my daddy accepted Jesus in his heart and we have a lot to be thankful for. This is all I want for Christmas and I’ve got it.” *(Dynamic Preaching)***

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**That which is to be most desired in America is oneness and not sameness. *(Stephen S. Wise)***

**I distrust those people who know so well what God wants them to do, because I notice it always coincides with their own desires. *(Susan B. Anthony, American feminist)***

**Aspiration is like water. It needs a place to go, or else it drowns everything in its path. *(Somini Sengupta, journalist)***

**Often it is said of an athlete, “He is not hungry enough.” By this it is meant that he is not living up to his best, not giving peak performances because he has become satisfied, complacent, and indifferent. It is not always the strongest or fastest or best that wins in athletics, but the one who has the greatest desire. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 45)***

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**I hope I get what I want before I stop wanting it. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Before strongly desiring anything, we should look carefully into the happiness of its present owner. *(La Rochefoucauld)***

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**What we want is blameless desire; desire devoid of consequences. However, the very nature of desire itself – with its longings, disappointments and fulfillments – has its own ineluctable movement. To covet, to want, to prize, remands us to a merry-go-round of pain and pleasure. Sometimes we get what we want and are happy. Sometimes we don’t get what we want and are miserable. Sometimes we don’t get what we want and are better off. So understanding the process of desire, rather than wishing only to have this pleasurable desire and not that painful desire, is the issue. Our particular desires may vary, but the nature of desire remains the same for everyone. *(Scott M. Gallagher, in Search for Self: 365 Meditations for the Mind, Body and Soul)***

**“Oniomania” is the uncontrollable desire to buy things. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Cameron's Titanic ambition: James Cameron had a selfish reason for making Titanic, said Chris Heath in Men's Journal. The director had been obsessed with deep-sea exploration since elementary school, and as a child once built a miniature diving bell using a mayonnaise jar and an Erector Set. He put his pet mouse in the contraption and lowered it into a nearby creek. "The mouse went to the bottom of the river, sat there for half an hour, and came back up,' he remembers, still satisfied with his achievement. Cameron went on to have a hugely successful Hollywood career, directing blockbusters like The Terminator and True Lies. But he always wanted to return to the water and explore what he calls the "ultimate shipwreck," the Titanic. There was just one problem -- how would be fund such a hugely expensive dive? "I don't think the studio executives believe it, but I wanted to make Titanic because I wanted to dive the wreck." So the biggest-grossing movie in motion picture history was the side effect of a personal whim? "Exactly," he says, before reconsidering the question. "It's not a whim. A whim implies, 'I think I'll go play pool tonight.'" A quest, then. "Quest," he agrees. "That's good." *(The Week magazine, May 18, 2012)***

**There is only one way to get anybody to do anything. That is by making the other person want to do it. There is no other way. *(Dale Carnegie)***

**A desire, Bunyan wrote, will carry a man to God if 10,000 men oppose it. *(Loren Eiseley,, in Reader’s Digest)***

**During our first Healing Symposium Richard Jafolla said, “When we speak we have the largest listening audience in the world. We have 100 trillion cells. These cells are awake inside of us. They are saying, ‘Okay, what do you want me to do today?’ And we tell them. If we tell them we want them to regenerate and go ahead with their healing, they do it. It will be as you desire.” (Christopher Ian Chenoweth)  
Planting a family garden would be a good character-building experience for our five children, I determined, but the trip to the nursery was a nightmare. They insisted on seeing every plant in the five-acre warehouse, squabbled over who got to push the shopping cart and complained when another child chose the same color petunias. Home again, I ranted and raved to my patient husband. “All I want,” I concluded in exasperation, “is peace, quiet and beautiful flowers.” “I understand,” he intoned calmly. “I believe they call that a funeral.” (D'Ann Jones, in Reader's Digest)**

**Husbands and wives in India who desire children whisper their wish in the ear of a sacred cow. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 168)***

**A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others. *(Ayn Rand)***

**The consuming desire of most human beings is deliberately to plant their whole life in the hands of some other person. *(Quentin Crisp)***

**Sometimes I visit supermarkets. I really love to see supermarkets, because I can see so many beautiful things. So, when I look at all these different articles, I develop a feeling of desire, and my initial impulse might be, ‘Oh, I want this; I want that.’” *(The Dalai Lama, in The Art of Happiness)***

**My friend Kimberly announced that she had started a diet to lose some pounds she had put on recently. “Good!” I exclaimed. “I’m ready to start a diet too. We can be dieting buddies and help each other out. When I feel the urge to drive out and get a burger and fries, I’ll call you first.” “Great!” she replied. “I’ll ride with you.” *(Katina Fisher, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Being frustrated is disagreeable, but the real disasters of life begin when you get what you want. *(Irving Kristol, American editor)***

**It is easier to suppress the first desire than to satisfy all that follow. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Edison – look what he gave to the world. Edison was uneducated. Can you imagine Mrs. Edison, his wife saying to him, “Thomas Edison, are you ever going to get out of that bed? I have to do the sheets.” No. He had desire and he sprung up to do what he had to do. *(Foster McClellan)***

**My chief want in life is someone who shall make me do what I can. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**In other centuries, human beings wanted to be saved, or improved, or freed, or educated. But in our century, they want to be entertained. *(Michael Crichton, novelist)***

**Most people have a desire to look at the exception instead of the desire to become exceptional. *(John C. Maxwell, in Developing the Leader Within You)***

**The fewer desires, the more peace. *(Thomas Wilson, in Maxims of Piety and Christianity)***

**Perhaps when we find ourselves wanting everything, it is because we are dangerously close to wanting nothing. *(Sylvia Plath)***

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**As a youngster living in the port of Boston, Ben Franklin yearned to go to sea. His dream of being a sailor never came true, but he became the first to publish news about the shipping trade. In a 1731 issue of his Pennsylvania Gazette, Ben published information on ships visiting the largest colonial ports in order to account for each colony’s share in trade. *(Ben Franklin’s Almanac, p. 302)***

**If you desire many things, many things will seem but a few. *(Ben Franklin)***

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**Love is the irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired. *(Robert Frost)***

**Our frustration is greater when we have much and want more than when we have nothing and want some. *(Eric Hoffer, philosopher)***

**Is there anything better than to be longing for something when you know it is within reach? *(Greta Garbo)***

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**We learn to pray by praying, and two concentrated hours a day taught me much. To begin, I need to think more about God than about myself when I am praying. Even the Lord’s Prayer centers first on what God wants from us. “Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done” – God wants us to desire these things, to orient our lives around them. *(Philip Yancey, in Christianity Today)***

**Desire is God tapping at the door of your consciousness with His infinite supply. *(Starlight)***

**God doesn’t have what we want; God is what we want. *(Irene Bellomy)***

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**I happened to be in the ladies’ restroom at Wal-Mart during grain harvest. A mother was changing the diaper on her baby when a pregnant woman came in with a toddler. Pointing to the baby on the changing table, the pregnant mother said to her son, “Now look at that. Don’t you want one of those?” she asked. “No,” he quickly replied. “I want a combine.” *(Ruth Pridgen, in Country magazine)***

**It is so\ easy to get settled in a rut, where we stay until some great problem or desire lifts us out, or some tragedy blasts us out. All growth starts with desire. *(Stella Terrill Mann, in How to Use the Power of Your Mind)***

**There was a man who went to Africa. It was his lifelong dream to visit a diamond mine. As he stood on the edge of a cave leading into the mine, a slender native held up a magnificent diamond, the most exquisite stone he had ever seen. Immediately, the man said to himself, “I must own that diamond!” The still small voice of God within said, “Do you really want that diamond? If you do, you may own it.” The man thought for a moment. He closed his eyes. He visualized himself owning the diamond, proudly displaying it in his home. He visualized people standing around him, admiring the diamond and congratulating him on his great possession. He felt their admiration and approval. Then, in a sudden flash of Spiritual Intuition, he realized it was not the diamond he wanted – his heart’s desire was to have approval – to feel good about himself. *(Marylou Ghyst)***

**How often are we offended by not being offered something we do not really want. *(Eric Hoffer, in Reflections on the Human Condition)***

**Thus, a hunch or inner prompting simply indicates that the good which you desire actually desires to be yours. Desire is God tapping at the door of your mind, trying to give you greater good. That you deeply desire something is positive proof that it has already been prepared for you, and is only waiting for you to recognize and accept it. This does not mean that you desire or wish to accept someone else’s good. You may desire the divine equivalent of someone else’s good, and you should give thanks for your own God-given “divine equivalent.” *(Catherine Ponder, in The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity, p. 284)***

**Isn’t it possible that to desire a thing, to truly desire it, is a form of having it? *(Galway Kinnell, poet)***

**The desire to reveal is greater than the desire to conceal. *(Carl Jung)***

**Anarchist Leon Czolgosz said he shot President William McKinley because he had the urge “to kill a great ruler.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It is the law of love that we have whatsoever we desire. As a father gives his children gifts so the Lord gives to us, because of love. When we think about the love of God drawing to us the substance necessary for support and supply, that substance begins to accumulate all around us and . . . it begins to manifest itself in all of our affairs. (*Charles Fillmore, in Prosperity)***

**If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world. *(C. S. Lewis)***

**Life is made up of desires that seem big and vital one minute, and little and absurd the next. I guess we get what’s best for us in the end. *(Alice Caldwell Rice, American humorist)***

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**What we do with our longings, in terms of handling both the pain and the hope they bring us, that is our spirituality. *(Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I.)***

**Do not cut loose from your longings -- for what are we without our longings? *(Amos Oz, in In the Land of Israel)***

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**When there’s a lot of it around, you never want it very much*. (Peg Bracken, in The I Hate to Cook Almanack)***

**A lot of people are afraid to say what they want. That's why they don't get what they want. *(Madonna)***

**Helga: “Remember when we got married you promised to give me anything my little heart desires?” Hagar: “Yes!” Helga: ”My little heart desires a maid*!*” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar The Horrible comic strip)***

**You are made in the image of what you desire. *(Thomas Merton)***

**To have more, desire less. *(Table Talk)***

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**Most of us don’t know exactly what we want, but we’re certain we don’t have it. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**What I most want from life is to know what life wants from me. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

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**Mozart died when he was 37. But in those years, he gave the world 327 tremendous compositions of music, and he wrote 12 great symphonies. Mozart said, “I play what I hear.” What Mozart meant to say was, “I play what I desire to hear.” *(Foster McClellan, Unity Minister)***

**People who have what they want are fond of telling people who haven't what they want that they really don't want it. *(Ogden Nash, American humorist and poet)***

**The desire not to be anything is the desire not to be. *(Ayn Rand)***

**Whatever they desire, the object of that desire arises from the power of their own thoughts; they have it and are happy. *(The Chandogya Upanishads)***

**Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down. *(Oprah Winfrey)***

**Between vacation breaks, we need not feel left out on a limb with no options for renewal. Within us always is a paradise island where the calm breezes blow and the sandy beaches warm our bodies and spirits. This island is nestled away in you and me and we travel to it by way of the ship named “desire.” We have but to desire to feel and know God’s presence, peace, healing, and in a magical moment we are on this piece of heavenly paradise and we haven’t even left our home. *(Edie Skalitzky, Unity Minister)***

**The people we love are never just as we desire them. *(Anne Carson)***

**Hagar: “I’m raiding England. Do you want anything?” Helga: “Yes, bring me some of their resolve, their tenacity, and their indomitable spirit.” Hagar then thinks to himself: “Helga loves the English!” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)***

**The #1 reason most people don’t get what they want is . . . they don’t know what they want. *(T. Harv Eker)***

**My riches consist not in the extent of my possessions but in the fewness of my wants. *(J. Brotherton)***

**If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desired the unhappiness of others, we could have paradise in a few years. *(Bertrand Russell)***

**Within the seed of your desire is everything necessary for it to blossom to fulfillment, and Law of Attraction is the engine that does the work. (*Abraham-Hicks)***

**It is not he who has little but he who always wants more who is poor. *(Seneca)***

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**Shakespeare was a butcher’s boy. At 22 years of age, he was a butcher’s helper. He was married and had two children, so he an excuse to be a butcher’s boy for the rest of his life. He hadn’t written a word. He died when he was 57. In those 35 years, he gave the world the greatest literature than probably any man up to that point in time. How did he do it? He had desire to write. *(Foster McClellan, Unity Minister)***

**Is it not strange that desire should so many years outlive performance. *(Shakespeare, Henry IV, Part II)***

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**Life contains but two tragedies. One is not to get your heart’s desire; the other is to get it. *(George Bernard Shaw)***

**As long as I have a want, I have a reason for living. Satisfaction is death. *(George Bernard Shaw)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Willy: “When I was a kid there were no ‘dot-coms’ or ‘www’s’. Life was simple. And everything you wanted was in Battle Creek, Michigan.” *(Joe Martin, in Willy 'N' Ethel comic strip)***

**Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things only hoped for. *(Epicurus)***

**Everything that appears is a statement of Mind. And the statement is in response to desire*. (Charles Fillmore)***

**A kleptomaniac called his psychiatrist at 2:00 A.M., yelling that he had an overwhelming desire to steal something. The doctor said, “Take two ashtrays and call me in the morning.” *(Malachy McCourt, in Harold Be Thy Name)***

**Sign on a newspaper reporter’s desk: “The strongest desire is neither love nor hate. It is one person’s need to change another person’s copy.” *(Gilbert Cranberg, in Columbia Journalism Review)***

**The way to which mankind may hold is not the eternal way. Eternal truths cannot be told in what men write or say. Who warms his body at the fire, sees nothing but its smoke; but he who puts aside desire, the flame’s self may invoke. *(Tao)***

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**Mom: “Tell me one thing you want to do when you grow up?” Dennis: “Everything!” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)***

**All the things I like to do are either immoral, illegal, or fattening. *(Alexander Woollcott, actor)***

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**I've always wanted to be somebody, but I see now I should have been more specific. *(Lily Tomlin)***

**Once upon a time there was a young man who wanted to become a great writer. “I want to write things the whole world will read,” he declared. “Stuff that will elicit strong emotions from people in every walk of life. I want my writing to make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger.” He now lives happily ever after in Redmond, Washington, writing error messages for Microsoft. *(Richard A. Wright, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Picture a department store, where a little girl sits perched on Santa’s knee. “Ho, ho, ho!” says Santa. “What do you want most of all, little girl?” “I want to know where the bathroom is.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve (or save) the world and a desire to enjoy (or savor) it. This makes it hard to plan the day. *(E. B. White)***

**In any situation in which you are uncertain, the first thing to consider, very simply, is “What do I want to come of this? What is it for?” The clarification of the goal belongs at the beginning, for it is this which will determine the outcome. Doubt is the result of conflicting wishes. Be sure of what you want, and doubt becomes impossible. Nothing is difficult that is wholly desired. No one who has a single purpose, unified and sure, can be afraid. No one who shares his purpose with him cannot be one with him. It is this one intent we seek today, writing our desires with the need of every heart, the call of every mind, the hope that lies beyond despair, the love attack would hide, the brotherhood that hate has sought to sever, but which still remains as God created it. *(A Course In Miracles)***

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**Desire comes from a French word, desiree, meaning of the Father. *(Foster McClellan)***

**Our word “yen:” meaning “desire” comes from the Chinese word “yan” meaning “opium.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**In time, the force of yearning will result in soul quickening. Then one must wholeheartedly enter into his real work, that of knowing God and finding out what God's will is for him. *(Roy Eugene Davis)***

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