**Heart Desires**

**Trust in the Lord;**

**and he shall give you the desires of your heart.**

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

**Follow your heart.**

**(*Psalm 105:3*)**

**Now Abraham was God's man, and he wanted to do what God said, but since God didn't say exactly where the land was he was to go to, Abraham followed his heart's desire, and headed for Canaan, following the dream that his father had given him. We know today that he was dead right, because Canaan was the Promised Land. But Abraham didn't know that till he got there. He was merely going in light of what he wanted to do, trusting God to stop him if he was going the wrong way. *(Russ Johnston, in God Can Make It Happen, p. 52)***

**If I ever go looking for my heart’s desire again, I won’t look any further than my own back yard. Because if it isn’t there, I never really lost it to begin with. *(The Lesson Dorothy Learned)***

**The story of Napoleon Bonaparte and his former landlady has been told frequently and has appeared in many publications, but it bears repeating. One day, happening to see his former landlady, Napoleon Bonaparte asked her if she remembered a fellow by the name of Bonaparte who used to board at her home. “Yes," she replied, “all that I can remember about him was that he was disagreeable, always busy, and always stayed by himself." Bonaparte replied: “Had I used my time as you desired I would not today be the commander of the army of France." (Paul Lee Tan)**

**Two years before Christopher Columbus sailed west, a German mapmaker named Martin Behaim made the world's first geographical globe. Called it an "Earth Apple." Christopher didn't see it. In fact, he couldn't even get his hands on a decent flat map. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It's no good running a pig farm badly for thirty years while saying, "Really I was meant to be a ballet dancer." By that time, pigs will be your style.) *(Quentin Crisp)***

**The singer John Denver giving a commencement speech to his old high school offered encouragement to his audience to be themselves in all things. He said: "The best thing you have to offer the world is yourself. You don't live to copy anyone else. If you do you're second best. To achieve success is to be first, and that's being yourself." he recalled how after high school he went on to Texas Tech with the intention of becoming an architect. He said: "But I quit to become a singer. Not one person said I was doing the right thing. Everyone said I was making a big mistake. They even turned me down for the shows at Six Flags, and I wound up handling the little cars the kids drive. "But I knew deep down inside I was born to sing for people. And singing is the most joyful thing in the world for me. It's what's inside you that counts. And if it's not what you want to do, don't do it. Listen to yourself. You'll always know what's right. Listen to that voice. That's how you find success as a human being. Don't be afraid to be who you are. It's not that tough." *(Joe Griffith)***

**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)***

**Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there's love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong. *(Ella Fitzgerald, American singer)***

**If you hope to find your heart's desire, you must look first at your heart; to get to the end of any road, you have to start at the start. *(James Dillet Freeman)***

**Often God's leading is what we want to do anyway. *(Russ Johnston, in God Can Make It Happen, p. 51)***

**Nathaniel Hawthorne had political ambitions and for a time was the American consul in Liverpool, but the serendipity road had many unexpected twists and turns for him. The world never thinks of him as a statesman, preferring to remember him for his literary works.  His books -- The Scarlet Letter, The Marble Faun, The House of the Seven Gables, and the story The Great Stone Face -- and not politics represented his deepest desires. The goal he thought he wanted, a governmental career, was not the goal he carried in his heart.  Whenever he met people he was instinctively writing stories about them, seeing them, so he thought, through God's eyes. The thing he set his mind on was the thing he became. He took on the qualities and characteristics of the places and people with whom he associated, and something of Hawthorne rubbed off on them. *(Marcus Bach, in The World of Serendipity, p. 51)***

**You have a purpose. There is something you believe in, a vision that stimulates you, a way of being that lets life flow through you naturally. Make the choice to follow your heart. *(Alan Cohen, in Joy Is My Compass)***

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

**I have an instinctive fear of the psychological effect of surveys. A fellow can get in the habit of feeling his pulse too frequently. The signers of the Declaration of Independence did not take a poll before they acted. They did not act like weather vanes. *(Ralph McGill, late editor of the Atlanta Constitution)***

**I shall continue to do what I think is right whether anybody likes it or not. *(Harry S. Truman)***

**There are no rules. Just follow your heart. *(Robin Williams)***

**Christ fills my soul! And the world reflects my heart's desire. *((Mick Dustin)***

**Frank Lloyd Wright never went around ringing doorbells to find out which kind of homes people liked. The most heavily preached car in history was the ill-fated Edsel. *(William L. Mitchell, car designer at General Motors for 42 years, in New York Times)***

**Suddenly, I realized, that every time I gave up the idea of writing, that sinking feeling went through me; it gave me the blues. The thought of graduate school wasn't what depressed me. It was giving up on what deep in my gut I really wanted to do. Right there, I learned another lesson. To avoid that kind of depression meant, inevitably, having to endure a certain amount of worry and concern. *(James Lincoln Collier, in Reader's Digest)***

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