

# The Desires of Our Heart

**Psalm 37:4** (NKJV) – *Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

There are numerous interpretations of this verse, however the various bible translations<sup>1</sup> seem to be in unison as to the inference.

1. God will give me what me heart wants – The translations all concur on this.
2. God will place in me his desires and these are the ones he will bring to pass.
3. God changes our heart and our attitudes and then allow appropriate personal desires to become manifest because we know how to handle them.

I had an experience recently which aligns with the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the above list.

As background, in my youth I studied agriculture at university. I desired to have a goat stud with a stock horse, 4WD vehicle, sheep dogs, poultry, etc., as well as a wife and children. I refused also to go back to the city to live once I got established on the land. By the time I was 30 I had all of these, and my hearts desire was fulfilled. At that time I was baptised in the Holy Spirit and began to desire to please the Lord rather than myself. Strangely, at that same time, I have disease problems and deaths in all of my various types of animals which frustrated me immensely. I also began suffering from skin cancer because of being on the sun on the farm every day for many years. My Gaelic complexion couldn't cope with the sun's radiation and my physician advised me to get out of the sun – and I was not even year 40 years old. So, I had to relinquish the life I had desired, move to the local township and I retrained as a computer teacher – an indoor job.

What had happened was that my desire to please the Lord meant that my love for my desired lifestyle was out of alignment with his standard of loving him. So, he took the thing I loved the most – because he won't accept a divided heart – and retrained me over the next 25 years to love him the most. Today, he is my desire and my only other desire is to be about his business, not mine. By the way, most of this retraining occurred in the last 10 years in the city where we eventually moved.

This brings me to my incident a few weeks ago.

I have been diligent to be led by the Spirit, just as Jesus was. This is because the sons of God are spirit-led.<sup>2</sup> I had been conscientious in ensuring that my own soulish desires did not eventuate and that what I heard the Spirit say was what I did and said. However, on one of my walks I had the thought drop into me that I'd like to have laying hens again. This came 'out of the blue' as I had wrenched out of me any desire for animals, even though I maintained my connection with the soil by growing vegetables for ourselves and our Kingdom Community. Because I hadn't been thinking about chickens again, I checked with my spirit as to it's source and was surprised to discover it was from the Lord. Wow! I had no idea that this would come.

Once I accepted that it was from him, he showed me the location for the yard, the design of the yard, the source of free sawdust, and the low-cost feed for them. Later he showed me the construction materials to use and even supplied some of the timber when I was doing a clean-up job for one of our Community members.

As I meditated on the experience over the following week I was shown that I had been tested and

1 – Checking the 40-odd available at BibleGateway.com

2 – Romans 8:14

found trustworthy to release desires from my heart (even though they had been squashed for years) because they would not become the focus of my love. My King is my Beloved and worldly things cannot replace him. He's my supplier, so I'm not looking to anything to supply me with love, affection and pleasure. I'm safe to be trusted with a distracting thing which is not evil in itself.

I also learnt that I need to follow those desires that he releases to me, not just the voice of the Spirit. He is leading me into "good works" that he approves of by moving my heart to supply the needs of others just as his heart is moved. A major change in the way I am to operate.

But notice, it was not my timing, it was his. It was not my desire to do something: he released it to me: I got his go-ahead to do it because it was the right time and it was OK.

John Eldredge had a similar experience and he learnt a similar spiritual lesson as well:<sup>3</sup>

*"For years I've had a desire for a place of my own, several hundred acres with some riverfront, maybe here in Oregon. My longing for a ranch preceded by years any thought of using it for "ministry". No, ever since I was a child, the ranch has meant to me something else, my little heaven on earth. I rolled down the windows of my four-wheel drive and drank in the beauty and the solitude, the warmth of the sun, the sight of horses grazing in the fields, and the smell of the hay meadows. As I allowed myself to feel that quiet and long-buried desire, a sentence popped up out of my heart: I really could be happy here without God. It was completely unlooked for and remarkably honest. The thwarting had worked; now I could see what God was after in my heart. It all fell into place, and I simply said, Oh...now I understand.*

*God must take away the heaven we create, or it will become our hell. You may not think your efforts to arrange for a little of what you desire are anything like heaven on earth. I certainly didn't; not, at least, in the more conscious regions of my heart. But some deep and tender part of us gets trapped there in those times and places where we have had a taste of the life we long for. There in the ranch lands of central Oregon, I realized that the real issue is this: I haven't wanted to be an eternal person. I've wanted to find life here somehow. And not somehow, but through golden days on western streams, with men I love. For it was there I felt most alive, most loved, most hopeful.*

*As I sat there in my Jeep, surrounded by the visions and aromas—horses in a field, the pine and sage—I was transported to a time long ago in my youth, with all the promise in the air of the day ahead. And I thought, I would give anything to return to that time in my life. It's as if the golden center of my heart is back there in those golden days, and God wants to free it from there, to bring it into the present for the future.*

*I returned home a different man. Not entirely healed, not fully delivered, but still, something deep in me had shifted. The arranging had begun to stop. My heart was beginning to lift its eyes beyond the horizon toward those eternal pastures. Two weeks later Brent<sup>4</sup> was killed. I began to see the hand of God in all of it, preparing me for what was coming. I think at any time during those years of thwarting, had you asked me if I truly longed for eternity, I would have said yes. My answer would not have been dishonest, but it would not have been entirely true, either."<sup>5</sup>*

Notice what John Eldredge discovered? "God must take away the heaven we create, or it will become our hell." We both experienced this as well as the other important lesson – When our heart is right, we can enter into the righteous desires we have, but only in God's timing.

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3 – Peter read this quote to us in Community the morning I shared on the topic.

4 – John's mate in the ranch venture.

5 – John Eldredge (2007) "Desire: The Journey We Must Take to Find the Life God Offers" Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition p:99-101

Despite both our similar experiences, I'm convinced that God also puts his desires into us – but that's another story for another time.

### **Resources**

- “Passion: Is this you, God?” (Lance Wallnau) – [VIDEO](#)
- “3 Secrets to Dream Manifestations” (Lance Wallnau) – [VIDEO](#)

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