

## ***I Want...***

How many times have you heard someone say, “I want...?” How many times do we say it ourselves? It can pertain to a myriad of situations, but it usually reflects a want or desire for something physical; a new car, clothes, job, money, or “I wanted to do...” and so on.

To succinctly define want, the Free Dictionary lists the definition as: to desire *greatly*, need, *lack*, to have a strong feeling to *have* (something), a wish (to possess or *do* something). For discussion purposes, we will focus on “lack.” We want because we may feel or believe we lack something. Maybe something someone else has or a material object we would like to have and we will “bust a gut” to get it.

I am positive we can all remember what a “Christmas list” is and all the dozens of wants we hear around that time of year. “I want a new bike, I want an Xbox, I want, I want” ...one or two items became a list. It always blew my mind anyway how a fat red elf gave out presents to celebrate Jesus’s Birthday. “Getting” tons of gifts for someone else’s birthday does not seem right in itself and no matter, Jesus is not involved in it anyway, maybe in Name only. It is such a blessing to have been liberated by God’s perfect truth from the seasonal madness associated with the buying frenzy.

When I hear “I want” I am always reminded of the contrary in Psalm 23.

**Psalm 23:1-** “The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want.” Recalling to emphasize on “lack,” in layman’s terms, “God is my Shepherd, I shall lack nothing.” David writes that God is the protector of His flock. He will provide all our needs for our lives. We must come to that place of submission and admit we are totally dependent upon God, His grace, mercy and His provisions. We of ourselves are helpless without His Divine love and care. Even Jesus Himself acknowledged His dependence on God.

**John 5:30-** “I have no power to do anything of Myself; but as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father, Who sent Me.”

This certainly does not mean we cannot have wants and desires. God wants us all to prosper, according to His will. Prosper does not always mean material or monetary gain. There are conditions to prosperity.

**Psalm 1:1-3-** “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law does he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, and its leaf shall not wither, and all that he does shall prosper.”

This may go contrary to some of the Protestant Churches of today that preach nothing but prosperity, the “name it claim it” and “blab it and grab it” bunch. They think God has nothing better to do than sit on His throne and grant blessings upon blessings for anyone who asks. These are the same ones who “call down the spirit” by repetitiously singing hymns over and over again until someone utters some “prophetic” gibberish. Once this happens, they can put the spirit back in the box until next week. We know from study and keeping God’s Sabbaths and Holy Days, God Word and His blessings are contingent on our complete obedience. We do not get to pick and choose what Commandments and Holy Days we will keep. It is all or nothing. Blessings come with Commandment keeping.

**Psalm 112:1-3-** “Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.”

**Psalm 37:4-** “Delight yourself in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

It is perfectly fine to ask in prayer for things we want in our lives. We so often fail to see that they may not line up with the will of God. Believe me when I say that *if*

and when they line up with God's will they will be coming your way. But remember, God is not a genie in a bottle nor is He eBay.

**Matthew 7:11**- "Therefore, if you, being evil, know *how* to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father Who *is* in heaven give good things to those who ask Him?" We must be in alignment with His perfect will. It is not too difficult when we love Him first.

**Matthew 22:37-38**- "And Jesus said to him," 'You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is *the* first and greatest commandment;"

God knows our deepest thoughts. **Proverbs 24:12**- "If you say, "Behold, we did not know it," does not He who searches the heart consider *it*? And the Keeper of your soul, does He *not* know? And does He *not* repay to every man according to his works?"

He knows our wants. We need not be overly concerned for any necessities *if* we are walking in His ways and His truth. My catch phrase is applicable here, do not get wrapped around the axle over "things." Our Good Shepherd knows of every want and need we have and will have during our life time.

**Matthew 6:25-34-** “Because of this I say to you, do not be anxious about your life *as to* what you shall eat and what you shall drink; nor about your body *as to* what you shall wear. Is not life *more* than food, and the body *more* than clothing?

Observe the birds of heaven: they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor do they gather into granaries; and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they? But who among you, by taking careful thought, is able to add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe the lilies of the field, how they grow: they do not labor, nor do they spin; But I say to you, not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed as one of these. Now if God so arrays the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven, *shall* He not much rather clothe you, O *you* of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we be clothed?’ For the nations seek after all these things. And your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things. But *as for* you, seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow; for tomorrow shall take care of the *things* of itself. Sufficient for the day *is* the evil of that *day*.”

“His righteousness” tends to be overlooked by most folks when they quote this scripture. “Seek first the Kingdom of God and all things shall be added unto you”

is the way I have heard it over the years. Yep, just look for God and His Kingdom and He will give you everything. What? You mean we have to be righteous and holy as He is? It requires action, obedience, and work on our part, so save your money on buying any Miracle Spring Water.

God know our needs and wants before we do. He more importantly knows our *hearts and motives* in all we do.

**Romans 8:27-** “And the One Who searches the hearts comprehends what the *strivings* of the Spirit *are* because it makes intercession for *the* saints according to *the will of God.*” “Strivings” in this case as used in A Faithful Version means “what one has in the mind, the thoughts and purposes.” God knows our intentions and trying to slip one by Him will never happen. It did not work out to well for Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5...

As we are in the preparation stages for this year’s Passover celebration, reflection of self is a main consideration. When we serve God, or we think we are, do we glorify Him with our efforts? Do our attitudes mirror the character of Jesus Christ? Is it better to fall on our sword or swing it at someone? Is it more important to be right than righteous? Can we hold our piece if we are not edifying someone in our comments? Food for thought.

**1 Corinthians 10:31-33**- “Therefore, whether you eat, or you drink, or you do anything, *do all things to the glory of God*. Be without offense to both Jews and Greeks, and to the church of God; According as I also *seek to please everyone* in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, in order that they may be saved.” Serving from our flesh yields nothing of service to God. If we are of this mindset, to paraphrase **Matthew 7:23**, expect to hear Him tell us someday, “depart from Me I never knew you.”

**Proverbs 3:5-6**- “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

**Psalms 20:4**- “May He grant you according to your own heart and fulfill all your plans.”

If we do not know Him personally, do we actually trust in Him? Can He know us if we do not trust in Him? I am sure God knows us in any case but the disconnect can be unfavorable. Have you ever set out to do something for God, or thought you were, and hit a stone wall? Well do not be discouraged. Take a deep breath and a step back, say a little prayer and check your motive. “I want” may be the initial premise but it boils down to what He *wants*. The Bible is full of examples of those who thought they were serving God but the motive or method may have been off a bit. God will chasten those whom He has called. It hurts when He does.

**Jeremiah 7:24-** “But they did not obey, nor bow their ear, but walked in *their own* counsels, in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward.” God really does not care for the puffed up.

**Luke 16:15-** “And He said to them, “You are those who justify themselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination before God.”

When our reasons are from a contrite spirit and humble heart, we seek no self-elevation or draw attention to ourselves. When we are not condemning others, the plug is firmly in the socket. There will be continuity between God and you through His Holy Spirit. You will be in alignment with His will and not your own.

Remember, **Luke 22:42-** “Saying, “Father, if You are willing to take away this cup from Me—; nevertheless, *not My will, but Your will be done.*”

This is where knowing God’s Word and the personal relationship is paramount.

**Hebrews 4:12-** “For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart.”

**Ezekiel 36:26-28-** “And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My ordinances and do *them*. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers. And you shall be My people, and I will be your God.”

Because the “Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” – **Psalm 23**

We will always have wants, desires, and needs, but God knows them all. The peace that comes from living His way of life surpasses all understanding (**Philippians 4:7**). We do not need things to enjoy life but rather He has He has given us life to

enjoy things. The only true want I think that remains is that we fulfill our creation purpose according to the will of the Living God.

**Hebrews 13:20-21-** “And *may* the God of peace, Who raised our Lord Jesus from among *the* dead—that great Shepherd of the sheep—through *the* blood of *the* everlasting covenant, Perfect you in every good work in order that you may do His will; accomplishing in you that which *is* well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom *be the* glory into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

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