

## Driven by Desire

God designed the human soul with legitimate needs that we experience as desires. Desire is an absolute of the soul that initially deceives us in the flesh and then is used by GHS to move us toward God. Both the sin nature and GHS use desire to motivate behavior.

### **Operating Principles of the Soul**

#### **1. All behavior is determined by beliefs – beliefs → behavior**

2Cor 4:13 I believe and therefore I speak – beliefs determine what we say & do  
Jer 17:5-9 who/what we believe determines our direction & destiny in life

#### **2. OM beliefs are corrupted by deceitful desires that cause us to believe lies.**

Ephesians 4:22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

- Desires that deceive – believe: gratification/desires = +H; pleasure = +H
- Desire → believe gratification = +H → strategies to achieve gratification
- W/out God we pursue gratification on our own apart from God's will
- W/out God we can only manipulate our relationships & circumstances

Gal 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

#### **3. NM beliefs are also motivated by desires created by GHS.**

Gal 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, & the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

- Flesh (OM) produces desires that deceive us into believing lies
- GHS (NM) produces desires that inspire us to believe & live the truth

#### **4. Both OM & NM use desire as its core motivation for all behaviors.**

- We do what we want – everything we do has a desire motivating it
- All OM behavior is based on a lie & intended to fulfill some desire/want

**OM Desires – epithumia** – lust - Lk 8:44 lusts that motivated the devil shared by Pharisees; Rom 1:24 lust heart → unclean → dishonor bodies; Rom 6:12 don't allow sin nature to rule to obey its lusts; Rom 13:4 make no provision for the flesh, obey its desires; 1Tim 6:9 Love money → many foolish & harmful lusts; Tit 3:3 unbeliever serves various lusts & pleasures; Jam 1:14 drawn away by lust; 1Pt 1:14 conformed to evil desires; 1Pt 2:11 fleshly lusts war against soul; 2Pt 1:4 world corrupted by lust; 2Pt 2:10 follow corrupt desires of sin nature; 1Jn2:16 world = lust flesh / eyes, pride of life

**NM Desires – epipotheo** – longing, desire – all desire for spiritual life is rooted in the work of GHS; 1Cor 2:14 man w/out GHS is unable to understand spiritual things; Rom 8:7 man w/out GHS doesn't submit to God & is in fact unable to do so.

Gal 5:17 GHS produces desire for God; Phil 2:13 GHS energizes desire to please God; Jam 4:5 GHS desires us & envies when we are worldly; Rom 1:11 Paul longs to see Romans to function spiritually; 1Pt 2:2 desire milk of word; 2Cor 5:2 desire for resurrection body; Lk 22:15 Jesus desires to eat the Passover meal; Phil 1:8; 2Cor 9:14, 1Tim 1:4, 1Thes 3:6, Phil 4:1 – long for other bel's – desire their spiritual benefit

**Every action, either sinful or spiritual is rooted in a desire for something. To understand our motives and submit to the transforming work of GHS we have to discern our desires.**

## Practical Application

### **Gen 3:1-13 The Fall of Man**

Gen.3:1-4 – Eve dialogues with the devil & he tests her viewpoint of God’s will

**Vs1** – challenges God’s command / tree; Vs 2-3 don’t even touch it or we will die

- Eve is struggling with authority of God & husband – added to the word
- If she was fully submissive to God she would understand with clarity
- Eve’s inner dialogue: dissatisfied with her position and role in her life

**Vs 4-5** – satan tells her his lie – you won’t die, you will be like God – equal with God

- Eve is not happy with her position under authority – wants to be equal
- Her dissatisfaction with God’s will & desire equality makes her vulnerable

**Vs 6** – fruit: good / food, pleasing / eye, desirable for wisdom – she ate, Adam ate

- What did Eve want that motivated her to eat?
- What did Adam want that motivated him to eat?
- Where did they turn when they knew they were in trouble?
- Why do you think Adam was fearful?
- Who did he blame for his own sin? Who did Eve blame?

1. When examining behavior for change, motivation is the key issue.
2. Real change happens when we change our reasons for behavior.
3. Changing behavior w/out changing motives results in other forms of the same kind of behavior.
4. The human soul is motivated by desire – behavior is linked to what we want.
5. It appears that Eve did not want to be under authority & didn’t fully buy in.
6. Eve wanted to be equal with God and Adam – perhaps she wanted to be appreciated for her own abilities and contributions.
7. She wanted to be free to pursue her own agenda and her own will.
8. She felt unfairly burdened by God’s authority and will over her.
9. Her desire for something outside of God’s will made her vulnerable to devil’s lies

### **Eve’s Solution**

1. Eve wanted something God was not offering or giving her.
2. She believed that she needed what she wanted to be truly happy
3. satan offered her a way to gain her goal outside of God’s help or will.
4. She decided that what she wanted was worth whatever means necessary.
5. Eve’s answer was to take her desire to God and ask Him to fulfill it.
6. If God refused to give her what she wanted, then clearly she didn’t need it, was better off w/out it or would have to wait on God’s timing to get it.
7. Eve needed to believe that God was committed to meet her needs and that whatever he was providing at the moment was what she needed for that moment.
8. Eve could have relinquished her desire by believing that it was not necessary to have it and she could have aligned her desire/belief with what God provided.