



Day One: Divine Desire

Last week we saw a vision of the ‘astounding to behold’ army – those who fully have Him and are fully had by Him. We discovered that it is out of our oneness with Him, that we start to realise His dreams are planted within us. And often, we discover what these dreams are, by the desires that we find arising within our hearts.

However, many never reach this discovery because of fear - we’ve been told many things about desire, and not much of it is appealing, or accurate. But the Lord says to us today, that it’s time we hear the truth about desire.

DESIRE is NOT a dirty word. It’s NOT from satan. Desire is not to be ignored or to be afraid of – it’s to be embraced! There’s so much fear around our desires – as though they’re all planted to lure us off our path and into sin; or that somehow they have the power to completely overcome us. If we believed that all desire is from satan, then we would be cautious, but to fear something is to say that it’s bigger and stronger than Christ’s spirit within us is. In fact, the Bible tells us that *‘Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world’ (1 Jn 4:4 BSB)*. Do we actually believe that?

And the concept that all desire comes from satan is completely untrue! The word ‘Desire’ is actually made of two words:

‘De’ – which means ‘of’; and

‘Sire’ – which means ‘Father’.

In other words, all desire is ‘of the father’. Yes, ALL desire!

The problem is only when we try to fulfil our desires outside of God and His Kingdom ways. Sexual desire, for example, was given to us by the Father. He created us as sexual beings. Yet that desire in God’s way can lead us to a beautiful intimacy within marriage. On the other hand, that desire yielded to satan’s way, leads people to the most foul realms of abomination and abuse imaginable.

Our desire for love also comes from the Father and the giving and receiving of love is astoundingly beautiful in God’s Kingdom. However, many who try to



fulfil this longing outside of God lead themselves to unthinkable dark places. The desire was not evil – the method of fulfilment was.

The desire for wealth is actually God-given. Deuteronomy 8:18 says that it is God who *'gives us the power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day'* (NASB). Wealth itself is not the issue – in fact it is a sign and a wonder of His goodness and a tool for building His Kingdom and ministering to others. However, the problem arises when we won't partner with the Lord in building wealth through His Kingdom, but instead are driven by greed and selfishness to make it happen ourselves.

The original desire that is planted in people's hearts in each of these examples is pure. It is of the Father. If we truly see ourselves as one with our Father, we'll never struggle with the HOW of fulfilling these desires... we'll actually know that *'It is vain for you to rise up early, to take rest late, to eat the bread of [anxious] toil – for He gives [blessings] to His beloved in sleep'* (Psalm 127:2 AMP). It's only when we see ourselves as separate from our Father... as orphans without help... as those who have to fulfil the desires of our heart on our own, that we'll be driven to places we don't want to go because of them.

Desire itself is pure. It's only how we choose to proceed in fulfilling the desire that can either maintain its purity or change it.

Soak Time

What are the pure desires of your heart? And for each desire, what would be God's kingdom way of fulfilling it? If you don't know, ask Him.



Day Two: Fulfilment of Desire

So we saw yesterday that desire is not wrong. The only thing that is wrong related to desire is simply not trusting the goodness of God to fulfil that desire in us through His Kingdom ways. It's only at that point in which desire that was planted in our hearts in purity from God, starts to morph into varying degrees of impurity.

"Temptation comes when you have an expectation of fulfilling that desire in an unscriptural way. That's all." Jim Richards

Oh, what a relief it was to me to realise this truth! All of my life, I had been scared of my desires... as though they would only serve to take me off track and away from my destiny and purpose. It only felt that way though, because of HOW I pushed myself. My constant fear was that my purpose would not come to pass and I tried to fulfil my desires from a place of force and control (opposite to the function of God's Kingdom) rather than rest and peace. That simply doesn't work!

Romans 14:17 (NIV) *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

If the way we are attempting to fulfil our desires does not bring a sense of righteousness (knowing that we are loved by God and filled with the fullness of Christ Jesus), peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, then we've been tempted to contaminate the purity of that desire by our own flesh. The fear I would not fulfil my purpose was certainly not of the Lord as He's the one who planted that purpose in my heart to begin with. Not to frustrate me, but to fulfil me. Every time we do not trust fully in the goodness of God or if we have not fully received His love for us, we can be tempted into such fear. I'd also grown up habitually 'making things happen' for myself. In fact, my grandmother had affectionately given me the nickname, 'Bulldozer' because she said if I wanted to do something I would always make it happen. Did this force and control leave any room in my heart and methodology for God? No! I was always doing things *for* Him, but somehow I'd forgotten that it was supposed to be a journey *with* Him.

Conversely if we will continue to journey towards our desire, continually abiding in righteousness, peace and joy, and trusting in the goodness of our



God to work on our behalf, we can know that we are walking with Him in His Kingdom, and functioning in His ways. The fulfilment of purpose is inevitable for ones who will take each step in His Kingdom Life.

“While much of the church is waiting for the next word from God, He is waiting to hear the dream of His people.” Bill Johnson

God actually wants to hear the dream of His people. He wants us to prophesy out of our own mouths what He has placed in our hearts. He made us in His image, creative beings, and He wants us to identify what He has placed within us and then to trust Him enough to fulfil it.

What we can't do is start from the point of desire and make that the idol of our lives. It has to be about Him! It has to be about relationship with Him and abiding in oneness with Him. This is always God's way to fulfilment.

We receive His LOVE and we surrender our hearts to be one with His.

We understand and step into our IDENTITY and we see personal transformation.

We realise our PURPOSE and we see the fulfilment of our desires.

This is always how the journey looks... the Shulamite's journey.

Soak Time

Has the way you've been fulfilling the desires of your heart brought you closer in relationship with God, or taken you further away from Him?



Day Three: Fulfilment of Desire

The definition of 'Purpose' is 'The aim or intention of something.'

It was an exciting moment of revelation when I realised that my desires simply revealed the aim or intention for which I was created.

AHA! MY PURPOSE IS FOR MY DESIRES TO BE FULFILLED! THAT IS WHAT I'M HERE FOR!

Could it be true... that the Lord actually *wants* our desires to be fulfilled?

Psalms 37:4 (NTL) *Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.*

Of course He does! He is our Father and He loves us and He wants us to excel and do well and create and build – we were made in HIS image, as His children! This is in our DNA!

There are many desires planted within us that are His dreams in our hearts. He put them there and He wants all of them to come to pass... for the blessing of our hearts to know Him as Father... for the blessing of His heart as He works His plan and places His people into position to expand His Kingdom on the earth... and for the blessing of the world.

In all of this, the biggest of all desire planted within each and every one of us is *The Desire of the Nations'*, Who is Jesus! (See Hag 2:7) There will never be a single desire in our hearts which can be fulfilled separately from Jesus.

Relationship with our Bridegroom-King is actually our primary purpose. And relationship with us is actually His.

So how can we identify His desires that are planted within us? To do so is really simple and the principle is this: LIFE REVEALS DEATH.

It is in the abundance and experience of Life that we recognise death - what is *not* of Him! When we're in His Presence... when we're in His Word... when we're focussed on Him... when we live our life abiding in Him and in His Kingdom (righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit), that is when we can clearly see and can identify what is 'life' and what is 'death' to us. All that is



God and His desires for us will be experienced as 'life'. All else will feel to us as 'death'.

Genesis 1:9 (NASB) *And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear..."*

When His Life is clearly experienced, whatever is dry will be seen and felt for what it is. In practical terms, that simply means that we focus on Him in prayer and praise and notice what arises from our hearts without guiding it. If we find a desire is burning in our heart when we're actually not thinking about it specifically because we're focussed on the Lord... and this desire does not wane... we can know that He is showing us the desires He has planted within us. They're actually HIS desires!

"We are to pay attention to our desires while we're enjoying the Presence of God in prayer." Bill Johnson

Life is energising to us. Death is draining to us. It is easy to identify life!

Soak Time

Have you noticed desires springing forth from your heart as you've been in the Presence of the Lord? If not, start to pay attention and write them down as they emerge.



Day Four: Fulfilment of Desire

We saw yesterday that it's in the abundance and the experience of Life that we recognise death. If we are one with Christ Jesus and we're flowing in His Spirit and journeying together to fulfil His desires within us, death (anything that is not part of His plan for us) is so easily identified by us. We quickly lose our peace and find we can't even muster up the heart to do it. The closer we are in relationship with Him, the easier and quicker we'll identify it.

At the same time, the closer we are in relationship with Him, the more we will be guided by the desires that naturally emerge from our hearts... because our hearts have become one with His.

Psalm 16:11 (MSG) *Now you've got my feet on the life path, all radiant from the shining of your face. Ever since you took my hand, I'm on the right way.*

"As we grow in intimacy with Him, more of what happens in life is a result of our desires; not simply receiving and obeying specific commands from heaven."
Bill Johnson

We see this transition happen with the Shulamite Bride. We see as she becomes more and more confident that she's living out of His heart and has become one with Him. She becomes more and more confident in the direction given to her through the desires which emerge from her heart as she's following Him. You can see it in her words below:

Song of Songs 7:10 – 12 (TPT) *Now I know that I am filled with my Beloved and all His desires are fulfilled in me! Come away, my Lover, come with me to the far away fields. We will run away together to the forgotten places and show them redeeming love. Let us arise and run...*

Wow! Look at what is happening here! In the past, she was waiting for her Bridegroom-King to lead her. He would come to her and ask her to come with Him. But what happens as their relationship matures and she steps into an understanding of her identity as one with Him? As it becomes experiential reality to her that her lover is hers and she is His and they are filled with one another?

There comes a point at which He says, *'Now you lead. I trust you to know my heart, to be one with Me and to be led by your desires.'* And if we'll continue to



walk with Him, there'll come that transition point for us. Where we will know His heart within us so very well... when we will recognise His Life so clearly... that we won't need 3 prophecies and a dozen scriptures to confirm His leadings before we move... but we'll instead sense the hidden whispers of His heart in the secret place coming through our heart's desires and we'll immediately know and move forward with Him.

What a beautiful place of intimacy! What precious honour He assigns to us to recognise His dreams in our hearts and to flow together with Him in fulfilling them! That He will actually *go with US* when we call. Pause and ponder on that for a moment!

Let us arise and run...



Pause and ponder on the thought that as we grow in intimacy with Him, more of what happens will come through our desires, than through specific commands from heaven:

Pause and ponder on the fact that when your heart has really become one with His, He will actually go with you when you call...



Day Five: Radical is Normal

Well, after discovering that His dream is already planted within us... and that there comes a point where He will even go with us when we arise and run... the next key the Shulamite discovered will not surprise you at all! And that is simply this: Radical is normal!

6. RADICAL IS NORMAL

Can you believe it? Not only does she lead – but He allows her to! The Shulamite finds herself at a place where she knows Him so well, she knows who she is so well, she is so confident in their love, in their relationship and in His Life in her, that he goes with her when she calls. She knows that the desires of her heart are of Him and we see the desires of her heart coming out of her mouth in Chapter 8 of the Song of Songs:

- *If only I could show everyone this passionate desire I have for You.*
- *I long to bring you to my innermost chamber... to carry You completely within me.*
- *I would give You there the sweet spice of My love.*

She's even making plans for Him!

- *We would drink our fill...*
- *His left hand cradles my head...*
- *We are at rest in this love.*
- *Don't disturb my love until He is ready to arise.*

In the past, it was Him who was telling the Brides-to-be not to disturb the Shulamite until she was ready to arise! Now she's telling others not to disturb her Bridegroom-King!!! I'm sure they were thinking the same thing as He spoke about her:

Song of Songs 8:5 (TPT) Who is this one? Look at her now! She arises from her desert of difficulty clinging to her Beloved.

This woman had become amazing! Astonishing! Not only to those around her, but to her Bridegroom-King! He affirmed His amazement, but He also affirmed something else, even more incredible. And that is His affirmation of her



oneness with Him. After all, He used the same language as was spoken in Song of Songs 3:6, which had been to describe Himself. But He described HER!

Song of Songs 3:6 (TPT) Who is this One ascending from the wilderness in the pillar of the glory cloud?

What an honour and a privilege to be described that way – as amazing to Him and He was to her!

She'd become a wild and crazy lover – just like Him!

His pursuit of her had been breathtaking and unyielding. There was no cost too great to pursue her heart. But she had now come to the place where there equally was no cost too great to her, to pursue His. She had become radical – and He LOVED it!



Is there a cost too great for you, to pursue His heart? Part of the freedom Christ has given us is the freedom to be radical... the freedom to be a wild and crazy lover of our Bridegroom-King. What is your Bridegroom-King speaking to you through this devotional?
