



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“The Battle: Passion & Pleasure” (SELFISHNESS SERIES PART 4)

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Passion and pleasure have a direct connection to our desires. James 4: 1-4 mentions that our disordered desires can kill and cause wars. Thus, we must regularly check our desires and motives. Though God created the world for us to enjoy, our desires for creation must be directed toward serving God. When we align our desires to the will of God, our desires will be answered (1John 3:22), and our passion and pleasure will be right.

1. Understanding our desires. Desire is a strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen; it is a strong wish or a want. Desires can be good; however, a disordered desire may lead to three things:

- Disordered desires can drive apart families, friends, and associates. Our selfish desires can cause conflicts.
- Sinful desires can grow in one’s soul and can drive people to shameful deeds. If desires cannot be controlled, they will lead our passion to do bad actions.
- Nurturing sinful and worldly desires will shut the door to God. When we focus on worldly desires, we lose our focus on God, and if our prayers are focused on worldly desires, God will not answer them.

2. Humility corrects our desires. Humility is the key to God’s heart.

- “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you” (1Pet. 5:6).
- Pride leads us to become selfish to all God’s creation. It can blind us in loving our neighbor and following God’s will.
- True contentment comes when we ask for things that will benefit us and others for eternity.

- A community of people who find happiness in sensual pleasures will be stricken with conflict, quarrels, and jealousy.
- “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble...” (James 4:6).

3. Only God can change us and our desires. Our decision to change ourselves and our desires requires God’s assistance. On our own, we cannot change fully, but only God can do it. God said that He will instill a new heart and a new spirit in us (Ezekiel 36:26).

4. How can we draw God into our lives? There are five ways of drawing God to us:

- Submit to God. Yield to His authority and will. Let us commit our lives to Him and His control.
- Resist the devil. Let us not allow Satan to entice us and lead us away from God.
- Let us wash our hands and purify ourselves. Confess our sins to God.
- Grieve, mourn, and wail in sincere sorrow of our sins.
- Let us humble ourselves to the Lord and He will lift us. He is closer to humble believers.

Conclusion:

As Christians, we must take a hard look at our desires, our passions, and our pleasures in life. Do we take advantage of our fellow brothers for our pleasures? God asks us to serve Him and to love our neighbors; only when we remove our selfishness can we have an open heart of service.

Reflection:

1. How do you check your desires, passions and pleasures to the will of God?
2. What are the ways you serve your neighbors?
3. How do you submit your will to God’s will?

Scribes Ministry

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