

## THE BURNING DESIRE

A. [Psalm 16:7-11](#). David knew that God ONLY gives the best gifts, the good & perfect ones.

1. Therefore, whatever a Christian may have to give-up in this life to serve the Lord will be more than made up for by what He wants to give us.

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**Mark 10:29-30** (Context: RYR) – So Jesus answered & said, “Assuredly, I say to you, *there is no one who has left* house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake & the gospel’s, 30 *who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time* — houses & brothers & sisters & mothers & children & lands, with persecutions — *& in the age to come, eternal life*.”

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[If we will have a *burning desire* for God’s greater gifts ([9:30](#)), that will empower us to turn away from some very appealing offers in this world, which might lead us into sin.

In other words, if you want the power to say “no” to sin or to anything or anyone that might interfere with you serving the Lord, then you’re going to have to have a *burning desire* for that which has the greatest value.

To have that *burning desire* there are four things you must be willing to do.

## I. DESIRE FOR GOD (you cannot resent Him)

A. **No one who** has ever been faithful to God ever begrudged the things he had to give up ([Luke 9:62](#)).

1. Paul didn’t begrudge giving up his career with the Pharisees only to suffer the loss of all things.
  - a. Because he had a *burning desire* for the greater things the Lord wanted to give him.

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**Phil 3:7-8** – But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for *the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord*, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, & count them as rubbish, *that I may gain Christ*. ([1 Tim 1:12](#))

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2. Abraham didn’t begrudge leaving his homeland only to spend the rest of his life tempted & tried.
  - a. Because he had a *burning desire* for the “city...whose builder...is God ([Heb 11:8-16](#)).
3. Jesus didn’t begrudge leaving Heaven only to have to endure the shame of cross to redeem us.

a. Because He had a *burning desire* for the “joy” of sitting “at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb 12:2).

4. So if we find ourselves resenting God because of the personal cost of following Jesus Christ (1 John 2:15-17; Matt 16:24), then we do not YET have the *burning desire* for God or for what He wants to give His children.

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**1 Peter 4:12-13** – Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings [cost], that *when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.*

**John 16:20-22** – Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep & lament [cost], but the world will rejoice; & you will be sorrowful [cost], *but your sorrow will be turned into joy.* 21 [as when a woman gives birth]. 22 Therefore you now have sorrow [cost]; but *I will see you again & your heart will rejoice, & your joy no one will take from you.*

**Hab 3:17-18** (A Hymn of Faith) – Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, & the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, & there be no herd in the stalls [cost] — 18 *Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.* (Psa 126:5-6; 30:4-5)

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[The *burning desire* for God will not only steer us away from sin, & from the people who would lead us into sin, it will also lead us into His presence where is the “path of life”, “fullness of joy” & “pleasures forevermore”.

But before we can have a *burning desire* for God, we must first be willing to trust Him.]

## II. TRUST IN GOD

A. **God never requires** anything of us that is not in our best interest (Turn & read [Psa 19:7-11](#); cf. [Lev 18:5](#)).

1. Notice all the good things “the Law of the Lord” could do for the Israelites, & we live under a better covenant, established on better promises, & we have a better Mediator than Moses, Jesus Christ ([Heb 8:6](#)).
2. One reason God commands us to give up the passing pleasures of sin ([Heb 11:25](#); [1 John 2:17](#)) is because He has something far better to give us.

[Faith is the willingness to trust the word of God, even when we don’t see the wisdom of His will.

Faith is trusting that God knows what He is doing & that He wants & will only do only what is best for us.

With that kind of trusting faith in God we can develop a burning desire to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to obey Him.]

### III. SELF-DISCIPLINE FOR GOD

A. **Take an athlete**; he will make great sacrifices every day because he is striving for a goal.

1. He will deny himself the pleasure & enjoyment of many things because he is reserving his joy something greater: the race, the win.
2. That's what a Christian does; he denies himself the pleasure of sin because he is reserving his joy for something greater: the race, eternal life.

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**1 Cor 9:24-27** – Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.** 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. **Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.** 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But **I discipline my body & bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

**Heb 12:1-2** – Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, & the sin which so easily ensnares us, & let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author & finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, & has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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[Do you have a burning desire to discipline yourself enough to obtain an imperishable crown?

To do that you'll have to give it your all, your best effort.]

### IV. GIVING THE BEST TO GOD

A. **Martha was not** doing wrong by serving the Lord; she was doing something good, but Mary was doing what was best (**Luke 10:38-42**).

1. In serving the Lord, sometimes it comes down to a matter of doing what is good or what is best.
2. It is not enough to say, "What's wrong with it?" The real question we should be asking is "What's the best thing I can do in this circumstance?"

- a. When my family comes to visit on Sunday, what's the best thing I can do?
  - b. When I'm relaxing at home in the evening, what's the best thing I can do?
  - c. When the saints are together on Wednesday evening, what's the best thing I can do?
  - d. When the people I work with want me to join them in some deception or to tag along with them to a bar, what's the best thing I can do?
3. Doing something good is better than committing sin, but when it comes to serving the Lord; He deserves & expects OUR BEST decisions & OUR BEST effort.
- a. Song: "Give Of Your Best To The Master."
  - b. David realized that giving his best to the Lord entailed a personal cost to him (2 Sam 24:24).

[We need to have a *burning desire* in our hearts to live the best life we can possibly live for the Lord.]

## CLOSING

### A. What is your *burning desire*?

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In the movie "Rocky", a two-bit boxer gets a chance to fight for the heavy-weight title against the champ: Apollo Creed. Rocky put up a good fight, but he was severely beaten. After the final bell at the end of round 15, Rocky is approached by the media. But Rocky didn't care about the accolades (praise) of men; he didn't even care how many points he scored in the bout. All he cared about was seeing his one true love, Adrian.

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1. What do you want out of life more than anything? What so pervades your thoughts each day that all else pales by comparison? Is it the *burning desire* to see God? (1 John 3:1-3; cf. Matt 5:8)
2. The prospect of looking upon the face of God ought to be the *burning desire* within each one of us (Rev 22:1-5; verse 4; cf. Rom 5:1-2).

#### GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:

**Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; read it in your Bible:** Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; Rom 10:17

**Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior:** Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

**Repent of your sins:** Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

**Confess your faith in Jesus Christ:** Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

**Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins:** Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

**Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge:** Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48

## THE BURNING DESIRE

Whatever a Christian may need to give-up in this life to serve the Lord will be more than made up for by what He wants to give (Matt 10:29-30; cf. Psa 16:7-11). To gain the power to say “no” to sin – that which separates us from God – you must have a *burning desire* for God. To have a *burning desire* for God, there are four things you must be willing to do.

### I. DO THE WILL OF GOD

- A. Those who desire God – desire to do only His will (Luke 9:62).
  - 1. Paul did (Phil 3:7-8). Abraham did (Heb 11:8-10). Jesus did (Heb 12:2).
  - 2. Do you desire to do His will (1 John 2:15-17; Matt 16:24)? Why shouldn't you?
  - 3. Joy is promised (1 Pet 4:12-13; John 16:20-22; cf. Hab 3:17-18; Psa 126:5-6; 30:4-5).

### II. TRUST IN GOD

- A. Those who desire God – know that His Law is for their good.
  - 1. What His law forbids is replaced by something better (Psa 19:7-11; cf. Lev 18:5).
  - 2. Do you have faith that will trust God for the best outcome when you obey Him?

### III. SELF-DISCIPLINE FOR GOD

- A. Those who desire God – forego pleasures, like athletes do, to attain the goal.
  - 1. Are you self-disciplined enough to reserve your highest joy for the imperishable crown (1 Cor 9:24-27)?
  - 2. Do you lay aside the weight of sin to attain the goal of Heaven (Heb 12:1-2a)?

## IV. GIVING THE BEST TO GOD

- A. Those who desire God – do more than what is good, they do what is best.
  - 1. Mary avoided a good deed, to do what was best (Luke 10:38-42).
  - 2. David's best service to God entailed a personal cost (2 Sam 24:24).
  - 3. Do you weigh the importance of what you do, and choose to do what is best?

Is your *burning desire* to see God? (1 John 3:1-3; cf. Matt 5:8).  
Beholding His face ought to be the only *burning desire* within each one of us (Rev 22:1-5; cf. Rom 5:1-2).