

CAREFUL WHAT YOU WANT FOR

HOW TO GET WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, PART 1

Pastor Ken Ritz * January 5, 2020 * New Life Vineyard Church

What do I want?

1. I want _____.

- When I get my way, I often get in my own way.

B. I want to do whatever _____.

- But if I always do what I want to do, I may end up in a place where my “to---do” options are limited.

C. I want perpetual _____.

- Most pleasures are addictive, and then I end up hating the thing I craved.

D. I want it _____.

- What I want today often ends up in the way of what I want tomorrow.
- Regret always begins with “I want.” Regret ends with “I want to go back in time and not get what I wanted.”

C.S. Lewis, The Great Divorce:

Hell is having everything you want by simply thinking about it.

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:1-3

- Getting what I want can be a problem... and James says not getting what we want creates conflict.
- Most of us don't know what we really want because we are distracted by our desires, appetites, and the things we are told will satisfy those desires and appetites.

You do not have [what you want] because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:2-3

- God wants more for us than an endless “want cycle.”
- You'll never get what you really want until you discover what you really value.
- Jesus pointed to what is actually most valuable.

HOMEWORK QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the question “*What do you want?*” what comes to mind?
2. Describe a time when you had a seemingly innocent *want* give birth to a sin, habit, or regret.
3. Where are you potentially getting in your own way of getting what you really want?
4. Have you ever pursued something you wanted, that conflicted with something you valued?
5. What do you really want? What do you value? Which is most important to you?

**All scriptures from NIV unless otherwise noted*