
The Desires of Your Heart

God's Plan To Prosper You

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Sermon: God's Plan To Prosper You: The Desires of Your Heart

Lesson Text

Psalm 37:1–6 (AV)¹ Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. ²For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. ³Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. ⁴Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. ⁵Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass. ⁶And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Introduction

Last week, we concluded the first series of this year which dealt the with process of discovering God's plan by learning to eliminate what's not His plan, getting unstuck from the middle of the plan, keeping your hope during the plan, and getting through every season of the plan:

- A Readiness Plan (Be Instant Regardless of the Season)
- A Trouble Plan (Endure Regardless of the Season)
- A Work Plan (Make Full Proof Regardless of the Season)

Today, we will start a new series by exploring one of the primary purposes of God's plans.

Jeremiah 29:11 (AV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Jeremiah 29:11 (BSB) ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.

It is in the middle clause of our theme scripture for the year that we see the purpose: **"Plans to Prosper you."**

3 John 1:2 (AV)² Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

To prosper means to make something successful. To prosper and be successful financially, materially, emotionally, physically and spiritually; to grow strong and healthy in every area of your life.

Prosperity is not a hope or a dream. It's not a lottery or quick get rich plan. It's not about being lucky or in the right place at the right time. It's not even giving the prophet a miracle seed to get some miracle money. No, prosperity is none of these things!

Prosperity is a divine plan of God that we will study over the next several weeks; and today we will look at this divine plan from the perspective of our desires:

- Psalm 37:⁴ Delight thyself also in the Lord and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart
- Psalm 37:4 (NLT) ⁴ Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.

- Psalm 37:(GNB) ⁴ Seek your happiness in the Lord and he will give you your heart's desire

I want you to take a minute and think about some things that you desire: House, Car, Wealth, Business, Promotion, Ministry, Happy Marriage, Children, Financial Independence, Peace, ...

Now how many of you have prayed for but not received some of your heart's desires? How many of you have received some of your desires only to lose them later in life?

So, if it's God's Heart's desire to prosper us, and it's our heart's desire to be prosperous, why does it appear at times to either be so elusive at best, and at other times to not even happen?

James 4:³ Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

The problem is there is a gap, fissure, divide, between our heart and God's heart; and God is not obligated to do what we want in our hearts, he's only obligated to do what He said in His heart.

Prosperity is not about what we want but embracing and walking in the prosperity plan that God has for us.

Today's message will bridge the gap between the desires of our heart and those of God's.

Series and Sermon: God's Plan To Prosper You: The Desires of Your Heart

“Realize The Gap, Bridge The Gap, and Close the Gap of our Heart's Desires”

I. Realize The Gap

Psalm 37: ¹ Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. ² For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

One of the first things we must do concerning the desires of our heart is to realize just how different they are from God's heart.

Isaiah 55:8–9 (AV) ⁸ For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹ For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

It's not a small gap or difference, it's not a little ditch or ravine: it's a Grand Canyon.

The Gap of Holy vs. Wicked:

- Psalm 22:3 (AV) ³ But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel.
- Jeremiah 17:9 (AV) ⁹ The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

The Gap of Perfect vs. Filthy:

- Psalm 18:30 (AV) ³⁰ *As for* God, his way *is* perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he *is* a buckler to all those that trust in him.

- Isaiah 64:⁶ But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

The Gap of Good vs. Evil:

- Psalm 73:¹ Truly God *is* good to Israel, *even* to such as are of a clean heart.
- Romans 7:²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

And herein lies our problem, because on our best day we aren't even close to God's heart.

As a result, many people get upset, frustrated, disappointed, depressed when they don't receive their heart's desires. So what's the answer?

The first key to obtaining the desires of your heart is to Learn the Heart of God

Psalm 119:11 (AV) ¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

2 Timothy 2:15 (AV) ¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II. Bridge The Gap

Psalm 37:3 (AV) ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Once we realize just how far we are from God, we must bridge the gap between our heart and His.

Philippians 3:13–14 (AV) ¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul said I'm leaving my past heart, and I'm moving forward to my new heart. But what is the bridge that gets us from our past to our future?

Philippians 3:15 (AV) ¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: **and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.**

The thing that bridges the gap between the past (our heart) and our future (God's heart) is trust. Even when we can't see it or understand it, we must trust it until God reveals it!

The second key to obtaining the desires of your heart is to Trust the Heart of God

Psalm 37:3 (AV) ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Proverbs 3:5 (AV) ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

When you can't see it, you have to trust it.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (AV)⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

III. Close The Gap

Psalm 37:4-6 (AV) ⁴Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. ⁵Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass. ⁶And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

The keys to obtaining the desires of our heart

- Realize the Gap by Learning the Heart of God
- Bridge the Gap by Trusting in the Heart of God
- Close the Gap by Delighting in the Heart of God

To Close the Gap between our Heart and God's Heart, we must Align ours with His.

Psalm 51:10 (AV)¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

The final key to obtaining the desire of your heart is to Delight in the Heart of God

David said that if we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart. Why? Because now our heart's desires are aligned with God's heart's desires.

Psalm 1:2 (AV) ²But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

To Delight first means to Commit our heart to God's heart.

- Psalm 37:5 (AV) ⁵Commit thy way unto the LORD.
- Proverbs 14:12 (AV) ¹²There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.
- Proverbs 3:6 (AV) ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

To Delight next means to Trust God's heart:

- Psalm 37:5 (AV) ⁵... trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.
- Proverbs 14:12 (AV) ¹²There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.
- Proverbs 3:6 (AV) ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

To Delight finally means to Receive the Reward from God's heart:

- Psalm 37:6 (AV) ⁶And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.
- Matthew 6:33 (AV) ³³**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**
- Hebrews 11:6 (AV) ⁶But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- Revelation 22:12 (AV) ¹²And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Desires of Your Heart)

Lesson Text

- Psalm 37:1–6

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Realize The Gap*

II. *Bridge The Gap*

III. *Close The Gap*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday’s Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What is one childhood memory you wish you could relive?
2. As a child in school, were you the bully, the one being bullied, the one who stopped the bullies from bullying or the one who minded your own business?

II. Into the Bible

1. **Case Study: Saul.** Apply the principles of this week’s sermon to the conversion of Saul described in the 9th Chapter of Acts. Read Acts 9:1-5; 9:10-12; 9:17-20 and answer the following:
 - (a) Describe the gap between Saul, a religious man himself, and God’s plan? When did Saul realize the gap?
 - (b) Describe how that gap was bridged?
 - (c) What steps did Saul take to finally close the gap and be in God’s plan?
2. **Think on this and answer.** Psalm 37:2 warns us not to be envious of evildoers because “they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.” In contrast, Psalm 1 promises that those who delight in the law of the Lord will be “like a tree planted by rivers of water...” Compare the life cycle of grass to the life cycle of a tree. Which is better and why?

III. Life Application

Do you have a desire in your heart that has not been fulfilled? Does this challenge your faith in God? Why or why not? Is there a gap between your heart and God’s heart? If so, what steps will you take to close this gap? What encouragement can you give to someone who is in this situation.