

Title: The struggle within
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Definition:

- **Desire** –something you want, A strong wish to have, that in which one takes delight
- **Indicates that it comes from within**
- others can't see e.g. your heart, mindset

1. God's Word

Ps 107:30

...so He guides them to their **desired** haven”

- Therefore desires determine destiny

Explore

- Desires leading to Death
- Desires leading to Life

2. Desires leading to Death

Num 14:2-4, 28-30, 35

² And **all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron**, and the **whole congregation** said to them, “**If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!**” ³ Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” ⁴ So they said to one another, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”.... ²⁸ Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: ²⁹ The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. ³⁰ Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in...’ ³⁵ I the Lord have spoken this. I will surely do so to all this **evil congregation** who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness **they shall be consumed**, and there they shall **die.**’ ”

Jam 1:13-15

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be **tempted by evil**, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is **drawn away by his own desires and enticed**. ¹⁵ Then, when **desire has conceived**, it gives **birth to sin**; and sin, **when it is full-grown**, brings forth **death**.

Cycle of death

- **Evil desires (murder steal, lust etc)**
- **Entice (Temptation: Looking at, delight in viewing)**
- **Drags away (Move toward deed/”bait”, Weakening of the will)**
- **Conception (Mind is made up, Will is totally yielded, End of struggle; Gal, 5:17-18)**
- **Birth (Act of sinning, Weakening of the will)**
- **Growth (Repetition, No repentance)**
- **Death (Rom.6 :23)**

3. Desires leading to life

a) Profiting from trials

Jam 2:2-8

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

b) The Perspective of Rich and Poor

Jam 2:9-11

⁹ Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹ For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

c) Loving God Under Trials

Jam 2:12

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Cycle of Life

- Good desires (Love , forgive, please God)
- Attitude of Joy (During trials, Refuse temptation) – v.2
- Knowledge (Know the purpose of trial) – v.3-4
- Pray (For wisdom, How to behave in trial) – v.5
- Single-minded (Stay focused on answer, Promise of God – Heb 12:2) – v.6-8
- Persevere (Don't give up) – v.12
- Crown of life - v.12

4. Death leading to Life

a) Repent

Rev 2:4-5

⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place— **unless you repent.**

Prov 23:26

My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.

Matt 22:37

Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with your entire mind.'

b) Reinforce

Eph 3:16

“that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, “

Reinforce - How?

- Word of God

Ps 40:8

I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."

Ps 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.

Col 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- Prayer

Eph 6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...

Rom 8:26-27

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

Heb 11:16

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

- Filled with Holy Spirit

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Eph 5:18

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

- Fellowship

Heb 10:25

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 Cor 14:3-5

³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. ⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies *is* greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

c) Regain

The Prodigal Son

- Repented
- Reinforced ...his heart with the truth of his fathers abundant food
- Regained ... his position as son (v.24) Privilege as son(v.22-2) New prospect of life

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to *his* father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me*.' So he divided to them *his* livelihood. ¹³ And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. ¹⁴ But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*. ¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. ²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' ²⁸ "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ So he answered and said to *his* father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. ³⁰ But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' ³¹ "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. ³² It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

- **What is in your heart?**
- **What are you going to do?**
- **What does God's word say to you today?**