

Too Easily Pleased?

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.

--Psalm 27:4

C.S. Lewis wrote that the reason we fall into sin is that we are too easily pleased. If we set our desires on things as great and high as God desires, he said, we slowly but surely begin to see the sins that used to entangle us as cold, joyless, and unfulfilling.

How true that is! If only our greatest desire were to dwell with the Lord and be constantly enamored and impressed with Him. If only we weren't so easily impressed and distracted by things that keep us from gazing upon the beauty of the Lord and being made more like Him. If only seeking His presence in His temple was the sole focus of our lives. Surely, we would become far more difficult to entertain than the people of a lost world, and far less vulnerable to the sins that entangled us before we knew Him.

Is there some sin that entangles you so that you can't break free? Some area of your life that is just out of control? Some way that the enemy can always tempt you more easily than in other areas, because of a stronghold that shackles you to that sin and makes you its slave?

Start focusing on the greatness of God and on His bountiful love and His wonderful purpose and plan for your life! The temporary joy or pleasure you take now from that sin will pale to darkness in comparison to the glorious radiance of the joy God wants you to have! As you develop a life of continual worship, you will find the abundant life and joy He promised and learn for yourself that "stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blessed, finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest."

Whatever joy or pleasure or relief from pain the vice that grips your life gives you isn't pleasurable enough to satisfy your God. He loves you so much that He wants something better for you. And He wants to bring you such joy that it makes Him hate the sin that enslaves you and robs you of the abundant life He wants you to have. So He will fight the battle to set you free from that sin.

What you must do is submit to Him and determine in your heart that you won't be so easily pleased anymore. That you won't settle for even the best that this temporal world has to offer. Tell God you want something more than you've even asked for before. Tell Him you want REAL joy. Set aside the meager pleasures you get from the sin that compels you now to return to it again. Resist the temptation by realizing and believing that His promises are completely true -- that your life really will be better when you let Him live His life through you -- the life the Lord commands you to live.

In the words of a popular Christian song, when He becomes "our One Desire, our hearts will never tire of God and God alone."