

## Wanting to vs. Obligation - Lesson

**Lesson summary:** Make it a point to live for God, obey Him, and seek Him because you want to, not because you have to or feel obligated to. You always eventually do what you really want to do.

**PSALM 37:4 (NIV)**

Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Just as it is God's desire to bring joy into your life, it is the devil's desire to rob you of joy, peace, love, selflessness, discipline, etc.

The devil wants us to get to a point where we are doing the things of God because we have to and feel obligated to. That takes the joy out of our lives. Always keep in your heart the truth that you are seeking Jesus because you want to, not because you have to.

If you want to do your devotions, your attitude is the difference in the thing.

When you are wanting to sin, the devil has already won.

If you sin because you want to sin, you must examine why and confront it with truth, for there is no lasting good in it. But if you sin because you feel obligated to sin, that is ridiculous and you need to pray to ask God to give you clarity of reality and truth.

In order to experience the joy and freedom Christ offers, you have to want to not sin, and want to draw closer to God. There are many very good reasons to want to live for God.

### **Examples of areas of motivation**

- If you go to church because you want to go there, good, but if it is because you feel you have to, you are in danger.
  - What are some reasons to want to go to church?
- If you do your devotions because you want to, good, but if it is because you feel obligated to, you are in danger.
  - What are some reasons you want to do your devotions?
- If you seek to obey and submit to God because you really want to do so, good. Beware to danger of feeling you have to.
  - What are some reasons you want to submit to God?

Anything associated with the kingdom of God that you do, you must do because you are convinced you really want to do it. God is not pleased with us doing things for Him that we don't really want to do. We must constantly examine our motives and seek God to help keep us from drifting into duty-bound Christianity instead of love-driven Christianity.