



## SPIRITUAL DESIRES

By J.J. Turner

Most of us have heard the axiom, *“Be careful for what you wish for because you might get it.”* Obviously, not all wishes or desires are bad, but some desires may be bad for us. The human race took the tumble into sin because of Eve’s desire: *“...the woman saw that the tree was good for food...a tree to be desired...and she did eat”* (Genesis 3:6).

Webster defined *desire* as: *“1. to wish or long for; crave; want.”* God affirms His desire: *“For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings”* (Hoses 6:6). God grants the desires of the righteous: *“The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted”* (Psalm 10:24). In Psalm 37: 4, we read, *“Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give you the desire of your heart.”*

Desire takes place in the mind (Deuteronomy 18:6). What are some of your spiritual desires? The apostle Paul opens his heart and shares one of his major desires with us: *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved”* (Romans 10:1). Are there any persons you have a desire to see saved? What are you doing to make your desire become a reality? At least you could, like Paul, pray for them!

Paul was a Christian who was full of spiritual desires: *“For I am in a strait between two, having a desire, to depart, and be with Christ; which is far better”* (Philippians 1:23). How strong is your desire to go to heaven? What spiritual steps and fruits are contributing to your goal?

James, the brother of Jesus, reminds us that desires may be evil, even among Christians: *“You lust, and have not: kill, an desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet you have not, because you ask not”* (James 4:2).

The apostle Peter gives us an appetite check with these words: *“As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”* (1 Peter 2:2).

Since God grants your spiritual desires, what is your major spiritual desire at this time in your life? \_\_\_\_\_