Desire and Faith: A Holy Partnership

Heb. 11:1, 2 Cor. 5:7

I want to expand on Sunday's message regarding the concept of desire. I do not want anyone to misunderstand my intent or the message itself. Desire is important, and so is how it is used. I want to give more clarity to my message.

Desire often gets a bad name in the life of faith. Many people hear the word and think of selfishness, greed, or lust. They assume that if you want anything at all, you must be drifting away from God. But Scripture never says that desire itself is wrong. Desire is part of what it means to be human. It is hunger, it is longing, it is passion.

The question is not whether desire is good or bad. The real question is what happens to desire when it meets faith. Left to its own devices, desire can easily turn inward and become self-centered. It can pursue comfort, power, or recognition. But when desire is joined to faith, something transcendent and transformational happens. Faith reshapes desire. Faith restores its original intent. Together, desire and faith become an engine that can carry us into the promises of God.

It is essential to remember that faith and desire are distinct concepts. Desire is wanting. It is the ache of the heart that says, "I need this." Faith is trusting. It is the confidence that says, "I believe God can do this." When desire stands alone, it often leads to frustration. We want deeply, but without faith, we give up when the answer does not come quickly. On the other hand, when faith stands alone, without desire to drive it, it stagnates. We may say we believe in God, but with no hunger in our hearts, our belief has no fire. Desire without faith leaves us empty. Faith without desire leaves us stagnant.

Hebrews 11 shows us what it looks like when the two are joined together. Abraham desired a son, but his faith rested in the God who promised. Moses desired freedom for his people, but his faith was in the God who declared, "I will deliver them." The martyrs in Hebrews longed for a better country, but their faith was anchored in the unseen kingdom of God. Desire gave energy to their faith, and faith gave substance to their desire. Desire was the spark. Faith was the flame. Together, they keep us believing and trusting in the promises of God.

Of course, desire left unchecked can be dangerous. On its own it can become selfish. It can sound like, "I want comfort, I want success, I want recognition." But when desire is filtered through faith, it is purified. Faith says what Jesus said in Gethsemane: *"Not my will, but Yours be done."* Psalm 37:4 reminds us, *"Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give*

you the desires of your heart." That does not mean God rubber-stamps every craving. It means when our delight is in Him, He reshapes our longings. Our desires begin to align with His. Faith does not kill desire. It cleanses it.

When faith and desire come together, they create perseverance. Desire brings urgency, like a drowning man gasping for air. It says, "I must have this." Faith brings endurance. It says, "Even when I cannot see the answer, I trust the One who promised." Together, urgency and endurance form holy resilience. You do not just want holiness; you believe God can make you holy. You do not just want a breakthrough; you trust God to open the way. You do not just want change; you believe God will honor the hunger He Himself placed within you.

So how do we live in this holy partnership? It begins with prayer: "Lord, increase my desire for You" and "Lord, increase my faith in You." It continues in action, pursuing God with holy hunger while resting in His promises when nothing seems to move. And it grows through guarding both faith and desire. Weak desire can smother the flame, and weak faith can drain the fire. We keep desire alive through worship. We keep faith alive through the Word. It is not a one-time choice. It is a daily rhythm, a way of life: longing and leaning, passion and patience, hunger and trust.

When you see it this way, faith and desire are not enemies. They are part of the same coin. Desire gives passion to faith. Faith gives shape to desire. And when they move in unison, you find perseverance, the ability to keep hungering for what God has promised and to keep walking toward it even when you cannot yet see it.

So do not despise desire. Transform it with faith. Do not fear longing. Let faith and the word of God shape it. Do not settle for shallow wants. Let God align them with His promises. Because when faith and desire join hands, you will not just want change, you will walk in it. You will not just dream of holiness, you will grow in it. You will not just hope for a breakthrough; you will endure until it comes.

That is the power of desire baptized in faith. It turns longing into fire, and fire into faithfulness.

"Father, increase my desire for You and enlarge my faith in You. Let my longing drive me to seek You and let my faith give me endurance to wait for Your promises. May holy desire and trusting faith work together in me, so that I do not give up but press on in love and obedience. In Jesus' Name I pray this prayer, Amen

Blessings,

Pastor Gool