

# God's Desire

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## Introduction

An infant's entire existence centers upon the question, "What do I want?" As children grow toward physical maturity, they learn to contemplate, "What do you want?" In this case, "You" is representative of parents, teachers, and other sources of authority; and also includes the needs or desires of siblings, friends, etc. As we advance toward spiritual maturity, we also ponder, "What does God want?"

God wants what is best for us. God wishes that none be lost but that all be saved (2 Pet. 3:9). In the greatest expression of love that man has ever known (Rom. 5:6-8), God sent his Son to die on the cross (John 3:16-17).

In contrast with the benevolence of God, the devil desires our downfall and destruction. His mission is the ruin of humanity (Gen. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8). While God is the embodiment of love, Satan personifies malignant hostility (John 8:44). The wages of sin are death (Rom. 6:23).

What does God want from us? Perhaps it would be profitable to note what God does *not* want. He desires something more than empty ritual and meaningless sacrament (1 Sam. 15:22-23; Isa. 1:10-20; Amos 5:21-24; Mic. 6:6-8).

## Truth

What does God want of man? God demands that truth inhabit the inner reaches of our heart (Ps. 51:6). In his final charge to his son, David stressed the need to walk before God in truth (1 Kings 2:1-4). Later, Solomon also highlighted the enduring necessity of truth (Prov. 3:1-4).

## Mercy

What does God want of man? God requires that we manifest mercy, a quality more important than outward ceremony (Hos. 6:6). Divine mercy is reserved for those who are merciful (Matt. 5:7). Jesus showed mercy toward sinful men (Matt. 9:10-13). In like manner, we must be compassionate, tender-hearted, and forgiving (Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:12-13).

## Contrition

What does God want of man? God commands contrition for sin. The sacrifice that God accepts is a broken spirit and a contrite heart (Ps. 51:16-17). The Lord is near to those whose spirits are

crushed (Ps. 34:18), dwelling with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit (Isa. 57:15), esteeming him who humbly trembles at His word (Isa. 66:2).

## **Obedience**

What does God want of man? God insists upon our full obedience. More than sacrifice and offering, He desires that we manifest a submissive spirit (Ps. 40:6-8). Jesus Christ personified this quality (Heb. 10:5-9). Never has this been more vividly manifested than in the garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:38-42). All who would be saved must follow in His steps (Heb. 5:8-9).

## **Conclusion**

Our highest goal in life should be to please God. Our greatest desire should be to do His will (Ps. 73:25; 112:1). Have you demonstrated your love for God by keeping His commandments (1 John 2:3-6; 5:2-3)?