

Are You Wanting Too Much?

We live such complex and dynamic lives. Life seems to progress rapidly and it can be very challenging just to “keep up”. Bills are always due, work is constantly challenging me, people can be demanding, always wanting results sooner than what I can deliver. I can't please everyone, it's just impossible. Can you relate?

On top of the craziness, the consumer side of me (or should I say my flesh), struggles with ideas of a “faster computer”, a “cooler tablet”, “nicer clothes”, and other cool stuff that I really don't need. As if life is not complicated as it is already, I think of having “something new” that I really don't need, and, in some cases, would only require more of my time, which would only make life more complicated and stressful.

This is not mentioning the people that love to remind us that there is, even more, to worry about than what's already heavily weighing on our minds. These are the people who warn us about not having enough for retirement, or making sure we have enough insurance, or how about a new business opportunity which will require another 5-10 hours a week of which I really do not have because I'm busy as it is. Don't get me wrong, those people may mean well and for some people, they are looking for solutions to problems that can address a certain need. So although these people have a worthy product, service or opportunity, it doesn't mean that it is for me.

“Always wanting more” is never enough

As you can imagine, thoughts and ideas are coming at me from all directions, most of which are driven by the underlying belief of “I want more” or perhaps “I want things to be different”. These two beliefs are the same as thinking “I am not content”, “I am not happy” or “Life isn't good enough the way it is”.

I am convicted as I write this. These are real struggles for me and now that I am reflecting, I realize that I need to repent. I am a child of God and a son of the King of Kings.

Psalm 50:

*10 For all the animals of the forest are mine,
and I own the cattle on a thousand hills.*

*11 I know every bird on the mountains,
and all the animals of the field are mine.*

*12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for all the world is mine and everything in it.*

Let's look at this from God's perspective. Let's say that you have a son, let's call him Johnny, he's just 6 years old and you are about to serve a nice dinner for him. It's his favorite, homemade macaroni & cheese with hot dogs. Your 14 year old wouldn't appreciate it, but Johnny absolutely loves it. So you start calling his name, "Johnny, Johnny, dinner's ready!" but he's not around. You peek out the window to see if maybe he's outside playing, and he's not in the yard. But then you see him at the neighbor's house, and he's eating a plain piece of white bread on the steps! "What on earth is Johnny doing, didn't he know that we'd have dinner soon? And didn't I tell him that I was making his favorite meal?" You might say to yourself.

I am guilty as charged.

Do I fully trust my Father in heaven?

Jeremiah 29: 11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

There is no question as to why I should be reading the Bible daily. It helps me to refocus

and cleanses me of unhealthy thoughts and to fill my mind with His truths and desires.

How's this for a great reminder:

Matthew 6: 24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

25 "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

28 "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

34 "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

I love that last verse, don't you?

That verse alone is great to be memorized and meditated on.

But this is a passage that I need to read again and again, and this is not even the whole chapter. I think every book of the Bible has something for me to read and reminds me of God and His ways. Consider these thoughts:

***Ecclesiastes 1:** 21 Some people work wisely with knowledge and skill, then must leave the fruit of their efforts to someone who hasn't worked for it. This, too, is meaningless, a great tragedy. 22 So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? 23 Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.*

And here's another one:

Psalms 73:

3 For I envied the proud

when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.

4 They seem to live such painless lives;

their bodies are so healthy and strong.

5 They don't have troubles like other people;

they're not plagued with problems like everyone else.

Same message, different books!

Do you see how these three passages, from Matthew, Ecclesiastes, and Psalms relate to each other?

What's really neat is that they each give a different perspective of the same topic. The first is straight from the Teacher, a direct message filled with illustrations and commands. The next comes from the wisest man who ever lived, King Solomon, who wrote his thoughts on the topic into a book. And the third is a great testimony from Asaph, someone who actually struggled with the same thoughts I do and he goes on to explain how God set him straight.

The Word of God really helps me to see things from His

perspective and this helps me to manage my expectations. As I read the Bible I read stories of people that suffered through enormous struggles and I get to witness how they handled the situation and what their attitude was...

Job 1: 20 Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. 21 He said,

*"I came naked from my mother's womb,
and I will be naked when I leave.*

*The Lord gave me what I had,
and the Lord has taken it away.*

Praise the name of the Lord!"

22 In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.

From this, I learn that grief is to be expected, to worship God in times of grief. I learn that the Lord gives me all that I have and He can take it all away. Also, regardless of any circumstance, I should Praise His name.

These lessons are priceless.

Psalms 46:

*10 "Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be honored by every nation.
I will be honored throughout the world."*

This says to me, be still, get to know God, spend time in His presence and be patient. He will have His day and He's in control.

And this relates to that:

1 Chronicles 28: 9 "And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the Lord sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you

forever. 10 So take this seriously. The Lord has chosen you to build a Temple as his sanctuary. Be strong, and do the work."

Again, get to know the Lord, not just superficially but on a deeper level. Give to Him my whole heart and be willing to serve Him. He knows every thought and plan that I have. If I seek Him, I'll find Him, and if I abandon Him, He will reject me. I should approach this seriously. The Lord chose me to do His work and He will strengthen me.

Just one more and we're almost done:

Let's revisit Psalm 73:

Psalm 73:

*27 Those who desert him will perish,
for you destroy those who abandon you.*

28 But as for me, how good it is to be near God!

*I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter,
and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you
do.*

Can you see the connection between this and the passage from 1 Chronicles? Personal testimonies are powerful; they inspire me to know God even more.

Do you see how I'm sort of playing "topic association" with His Word? I don't know about you, but I enjoy this. This is my idea of a Bible Study and it gives me peace. This is just how my mind works I guess, but it's come after becoming familiar with the Scriptures and I am thankful that God has done this in me. Notice how I started this message with worrisome thoughts and referred to related passages and then I thought of more passages, maybe relating differently, but it helped me to refocus my thoughts from me to Him. My thoughts were focused on my problems, but then transitioned to my God, the

only One that can help me and also practical instruction for what I can do, as opposed to what I can't control.

To summarize...

Our lives are crazy busy, sometimes overwhelming, and mostly out of our control. This naturally leads us to worry, doubt and negative thoughts. When we consider what God has to say and look at our lives from His perspective, He helps us to put our focus on Him, taking our mind off of our problems, and giving us practical actions we can take to draw closer to Him.

So, to answer the initial question for myself, I find myself wanting way too much!

*Psalm 23: 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
I have what I need.*

Let me encourage you to seek Him with greater zeal. You will find Him and never look back! [Here is a link for the entire chapter of Psalm 73](#), read it carefully for an extended study.

What lesson have you learned today?

"Dear Lord, you've made me aware of my errant thoughts that lead me to want, be malcontent and unsatisfied. Lord you are everything to me and I am sorry for letting my mind veer off course. I know that you want me to focus solely on you and look to you for all my needs. You are my Rock and my Provider and my hope is in you, not in the world. Thank you for setting me straight and for giving me the words to write this. You are so good to me and I pray that you use this message to inspire others to surrender themselves wholly to you. In Jesus' name, amen."

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