
“Blind Desire”

Have you ever wanted or desired something so intently that you ignored the warnings? The acquisition or attainment of the object of your desire became more important than the potential dire consequences of having it. If you have been there (and, I imagine that you have at some point in your life) then you can relate to the rest of this article. If you have not, then you'd best read closely because it will happen to you. It happens to all of us at one time or another, and to some *more* than others. We get so caught up in wanting something that we overlook the potential for danger and even go as far as rationalizing our decisions. We begin to do such a great job at justifying why we need to have something that we throw all caution to the wind even though it is a 150MPH hurricane. Then our emotions decide to throw their two cents into it and now we have a pending thermonuclear disaster. We become so blinded by our own wants, needs, and desires that any sound instruction falls on deaf ears. What takes the highest priority and precedence is what we want, when we want it, and how we want it and all at the risk of personal destruction. These are moments when our pride and arrogance are at full disclosure because we know better than anyone else. We become blind to common sense and discretion. For example, the person who wants to lose weight and gain muscle so bad that he ignores the warnings of taking illegal substances. Or, the single person that marries someone who she was warned about. Or, the ambitious executive who pursues the next promotion or pay raise at the expense of his family time or church fellowship. Or, the couple who desire to be homeowners so much so that they buy a home when they were told they should wait. These and many others are all common examples of what happens when our desires blind us to the extent that we fail to exercise discernment and no longer care to listen to reason, wisdom, and God. God, even after ignored warnings, will at times give in to you or allow for the things you desire even if it is not His specific will for you just to show us how much we really need to stay close to Him. We can see this take place when we examine the early Israelites' desire for a king.

In 1 Samuel 8:4-22, the Israelites displayed the very thing that you and I have experienced and displayed at one time or another: *blind desire*. They wanted a king and even though God, through the prophet Samuel, explicitly warned them about the negative consequences and disadvantages of having a king, they still insisted on having one. The Israelites wanted what they wanted when they wanted it. They had made up their mind and no warning from God was going to persuade them to reconsider. They were blinded by their own personal ambitions and desires. Their desire to have a king so that they could be like all the other nations and have recognition, identity, and acceptance in the world community became more important. They displayed ignorance and pride when they traded the Lord's promises and provision of security and protection for a human king as a symbol of national power and unity who would lead them in battle and guarantee their security. This intense desire led them to become unshaken by God's warning of the impending difficulties that they were going to face, in addition to rejecting God as their king. Eventually, the Israelites did suffer the consequences foretold by God.

So here is a question for you: What is it that you are intently desiring right now that is blinding you from seeing the warnings and consequences? You see, there is a very viable and relatable life lesson that God wants us to learn from all of this. A life lesson that speaks to everyone at any age. God knows that we have desires, wants, dreams, goals, and needs. What He wants us to know is that the things that we want are not always what are best. The things that we feel could bring us more joy, increased security, higher status, better finances and so on, could be the very thing that distracts us, deters us, and even destroys us. And, the danger lies when the warnings, the Godly instruction, the wisdom being poured out, the discernment, and in some cases, just plain old common sense is rejected because of our blind desire.

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