

ENTRUSTED: Has God Entrusted Us with Enough?

Andy Deane · 1/28/2024 · Selected Scriptures

SERIES SUMMARY:

1. God has entrusted us with His resources: stewardship
2. God has entrusted us with a choice: sowing & reaping
3. Question: Has God entrusted us with enough? (Today)

DO THESE THREE VERSES FEEL TRUE IN YOUR LIFE?

- Psalm 34:10, ...*those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.*
- Philippians 4:12, ...*I have learned the secret of being content...*
- Psalm 23:1, *The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

Let's review three categories we can place our "wants" into & then we'll discuss some biblical principles for them.

#1 Some wanting is normal (it's human)

- i.e. to be married, a raise, tasty food, good health, safety, kids, a career you enjoy, peace, a good car, etc.
- Proverbs 30:8-9, *give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much & disown you & say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor & steal, & so dishonor the name of my God.*

#2 Some wanting is admirable (it's divine)

- i.e. to pursue a great goal, more money for generosity, justice in the world, to be used by God, or closer to Him.
- It's admirable because God wants us to prioritize these too.
 - God wants us to be generous: Acts 20:35, ...*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*
 - God wants us to pursue justice & to walk with Him: Micah 6:8, *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. & what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

#3 Some wanting is sinful (it's devilish)

- i.e. what we want can actually be idolatry, or desiring what your neighbor has for yourself, etc.
- Wanting becomes sinful when it's: excessive, off-limits, envious, or covetous:
 - Excessive: Proverbs 27:20, *Death & Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are human eyes.*
 - Off-limits: doing that what is contrary to God's law: Genesis 3:1, *"Did God really say, 'You must not eat from'"*
 - Envy: Ecclesiastes 4:4, *And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another...*
 - Covetousness: Exodus 20:17, *You shall not covet your neighbor's house...wife...servant...ox/donkey...*

Is our wanting: normal, admirable, or sinful? Let's look at some biblical principles for dealing with wants.

FOR NORMAL WANTS: They are ok. They are possible.

- Some wanting is attainable with biblical principles: Proverbs 13:4, *the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.*
- Our wants are possible if God wills: Proverbs 16:9, *A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs your steps.*
- Matthew 6:33, *seek first his kingdom & his righteousness, & all these things will be given to you as well.*
- Be careful, because when we obsess over normal wants, they can turn sinful: James 4:1-3, *What causes fights & quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel & fight...*

FOR ADMIRABLE WANTS: Pursue it. God supports you.

- Psalm 37:4, *Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*
- As we align our hearts with God's then He can grant our desires when they are godly desires He loves.

FOR SINFUL WANTS: They hurts us. God often stops us.

- Proverbs 14:30, *A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.*
- Proverbs 23:4, *Do not wear yourself out to get rich...*
- Proverbs 10:3, *The Lord...thwarts the craving of the wicked.*
- Colossians 3:5, *Put to death...evil desires...*

THE OPPOSITE OF WANTING IS CONTENTMENT:

How can we grow in our contentment in life?

#1 Instead of wanting shiny things, be content with spiritual things:

- 1 Timothy 6:6, ...*godliness with contentment is great gain...*

#2 Instead of wanting temporary things, be content with eternal things:

- 1 Timothy 6:7, *For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.*

#3 Instead of wanting more things, be content with the things that you already have:

- 1 Timothy 6:8, *But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.*

HOW DO WE LIVE THIS OUT? Ask God this week how you can:

- Keep your normal wants in check (search your motives & balance your efforts)
- Pursue more admirable wants (you'll find more joy pursuing godliness)
- Repent of your sinful wants (you'll have less pain & less opposition from God)

A great way to learn how to live out biblical financial stewardship is to join us for a free 8-week class.

Timeless Principles to Practice: Biblical Financial Stewardship

- Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm
- Start Date: TOMORROW! (1/29/24)
- End Date: 3/25/24
- Location: Multi-Purpose Room (3rd Floor)
- Childcare: is available for all eight-sessions for just \$20 total.
- Register: by texting "CLASS" to (951)425-4425.