



# THE DIVINE DESIRES OF GRACE

Pastor Phil Carr

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Second Ebenezer Church

# THE DIVINE DESIRES OF GRACE

## I. INTRODUCTION

### *Jeremiah 3:15*

<sup>15</sup>Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

### *Matthew 5:8*

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God

**Grace is God's empowering endowment.** It enable us to be what we were created to be, and do what we were created to do. It's the most important force behind victorious Christian living.

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## II. KEY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT DIVINE DESIRES

### A. KEY OBSERVATION #1: THE HIDDEN WORD OBSERVATION

WHEN WE GET GOD'S WORD DEEP DOWN INSIDE OF  
US, IT BRINGS ABOUT CHANGE IN OUR HEARTS AND  
LIVES

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## *Psalms 119:7-11*

<sup>7</sup>I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.

<sup>8</sup> I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

<sup>9</sup> How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

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HOW DO WE USE GOD'S WORD TO TRANSFORM OUR HEARTS?

## LEVEL 1: READING GOD'S WORD

The most important book to read is the Word of God. It is the best selling, and most impactful book of all time. We should read repeatedly over the course of our lives. We receive benefits and blessings from its words every time we read it.

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## LEVEL 2: REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

We shouldn't just read God's word. We should go a step further and think deeply about its interpretations, implications and applications. This will provide us with the crucial insight and inspiration needed to effectively implement it into our daily lives.

## LEVEL 3: RETAINING GOD'S WORD

We get the most mileage out of God's word when we commit it to memory. We should memorize as much of the Word of God as our schedule will allow. It's so easy, and valuable to memorize God's word, yet so few take the time to do it.

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B. KEY OBSERVATION #2: THE HEARTFELT PRAYER  
OBSERVATION

**WE SHOULD CONTINUALLY AND FERVENTLY ASK GOD TO  
MAKE OUR HEART RIGHT**

## *Psalms 51:10-12*

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

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## THE KEYS TO MAKING OUR PRAYERS MORE HEARTFELT

Praying heartfelt prayers is something that a believer can learn and grow at if they work at improving their prayer life. The following three things will make our prayers more heartfelt.

1. GIFTEDNESS - Pray that God will give you the anointing and ability of the intercessor or prayer warrior.
2. GENIUNENESS - Seek to be totally authentic in the prayer request you make to God.
3. GRATEFULNESS - You should overflow with thanksgiving to God no matter what you're currently going through.



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## C. KEY OBSERVATION #3: THE MEANINGFUL CONFESSION OBSERVATION

WE MUST CONFESS OUR SINS AND WRONG DOINGS ON A REGULAR  
BASIS TO ENSURE OUR HEART IS RIGHT BEFORE GOD

### *1 John 1:8-10*

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

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## WHAT DOES MEANINGFUL CONFESSION MEAN?

Meaningful confession has three very important aspects to it. The more these aspects are present, the more meaningful the confession will be deemed.

### **1. WE SHOULD CONFESS SINS THAT ARE MEANINGFUL**

Confessing all of our sins is important, but confessing some sins mean more than others. As a general rule, the bigger and more hurtful sins are more meaningful than the others.

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## 2. WE SHOULD REALLY MEAN IT WHEN YOU CONFESS YOUR SINS

Confessing our sins mean very little to God and others if we're not truly convicted and repentant when we confess them. People should be able to tell from your conversation and conduct that you mean serious business with your confession of your wrongs.

## 3. WE SHOULD CONFESS SINS IN MEANINGFUL WAYS

How we confess our transgressions can sometimes make all the difference. For example, confessing wrongs is more meaningful when we confess them to the right people and at the right time. Confessing it to people you didn't offend is good, but not as meaningful. Confessing your sins years after the offense is also good but not as meaningful. Strive to confess your sins in a way that means a lot to the people involved.

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## D. KEY OBSERVATION #4: THE GOOD COMPANY OBSERVATION

PEOPLE WITH DIVINE DESIRES HELP US TO DEVELOP AND  
MAINTAIN HEARTS AFTER GOD

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:33**

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

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## *Psalms 1:1-3*

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

<sup>2</sup> but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.

<sup>3</sup> That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.



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## WHY IS GOOD COMPANY SO GOOD?

One of the keys to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's success during their Babylonian exile was the fact that they had one another to lean on and learn from. Many of us underestimate the value of good company. It's interesting to note that all of the things that good company provide is good for the heart.

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## 1. IT'S A GREAT SOURCE OF GOOD ENERGY

Negative company usually bring negative energy while good company brings good energy.

## 2. IT'S A GREAT SOURCE OF GOOD ETHICS

Good company often provide a good example of what to do and how to get it done.

## 3. IT'S A GREAT SOURCE OF GOOD ENCOURAGEMENT

Good company has a way of saying and doing things in an encouraging manner.

## 4. IT'S A GREAT SOURCE OF GOOD ENJOYMENT

Good company has a way of helping us to experience good and clean fun.

## 5. IT'S A GREAT SOURCE OF GOOD EDUCATION

Good company has a way of teaching us important things about ourselves and life

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## E. KEY OBSERVATION #5: THE DIVINE PRESENCE OBSERVATION

GOD TOUCHES AND TRANSFORMS OUR HEART WHEN WE SPEND  
TIME IN HIS PRESENCE

### **JAMES 4:8**

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

### **PSALMS 16:11**

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.



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## THE FAR REACHING IMPACT OF BEING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Spending time in the presence of God does a myriad of things that many of us aren't aware of or realize.

1. THE **HEART** OF GOD RUBS OFF ON OUR HEART
2. THE **SPIRIT** OF GOD REFRESHES AND RENEWS OUR SPIRIT
3. THE **MIND** OF GOD MAKES RICH DEPOSITS INTO OUR MINDSET

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4. THE **ANOINTING** OF GOD ADDS TO OUR ANOINTING
5. THE **SCENT** OF GOD LEAVES IT'S GODLY AROMA ON OUR Demeanor

