

# When I Don't Desire God: How to Fight for Joy

## FINDING JOY THROUGH GOD'S WORD

August 8, 2010; Part 3

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"This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to recite it day and night, so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do." *Joshua 1:8 HCSB*

### The Word of God Awakens and Strengthens Faith

"So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ."  
*Romans 10:17 NLT*

"When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God, he will lead you into all the truth... he will speak of what he hears, and will tell you of things to come. He will give me glory, because he will take what I say and tell it to you." *John 16:13-14 GNT*

- ☛ If we want more of the Spirit of God, we must hear more of the Word of God

### The Word of God Leads Us to Freedom

"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free... everyone who sins is a slave of sin." *John 8:32, 34 GNT*

1. This freedom is a fight for Joy because:

- 1) I feel guilt and fear when I sin
- 2) I feel the corrupting influence of sin

2. The deceitfulness of deceptive substitutes

"So get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to—the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires." *Ephesians 4:22 GNT*

*Deceitful desires create moral confusion so we seek ways to:*

- 1) Justify sin as good
- 2) Justify sin as at least permissible

3. The key to Freedom & Joy is to get "mean" with sin

- 1) Through mortal combat : Be Killing sin or it be Killing You

"You must put to death, then, the earthly desires at work in you, such as sexual immorality, indecency, lust, evil passions, and greed (for greed is a form of idolatry)." *Colossians 3:5 GNT*

"If through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live." *Romans 8:13 NLT*

- 2) By the Spirit

"Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil... and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." *Ephesians 6:11-17 NLT*

- ☛ I catch the lie and replace it with the truth

### The Word of God Is the Key to Answered Prayer

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it." *John 15:7 GNT*

- ☛ When the words of Jesus are alive in us, Jesus is alive in us

#### How?

- 1) It changes us into the kind of people who love what he loves

"If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." *1 John 5:14 NASB*

- 2) When my heart delights in God above everything else - it changes my wanters

"Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart."  
*Psalms 37:4 NASB*