

Making Ought To's Into Want To's

Hebrews 8:8-10

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- “Because finding fault with them, He says: Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- 9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Making Ought To's Into Want To's

- Christians need to perform their duties: attendance, Bible study, prayer, offering, personal evangelism, going to work, cleaning the house, raising children, caring for aging parents, bearing with weak and erring brethren
- The difficulty in this is that our duties are not always our desires.

Making Ought To's Into Want To's

- And so, preachers must repeatedly admonish, elders must often rebuke, and family members have to constantly chide to get us to do what we ought to do
- When our duties become our desires, when our ought to's become our want to's, this will all become unnecessary.
- So how do we turn our responsibilities into our pleasures?

God Wants His Law Written On Our Hearts

- Too often we mistake this for “engraved on our memory” or “part of our habit of living” rather than what it really means...
- ...Emotionally invested in doing the will of God; that is, we WANT to do it with all of our heart.

God Wants His Law Written On Our Hearts

- In the Old Testament, God's law was written in stone rather than in the hearts of his people
 - Ex. 31:18 - "And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God."
 - Ex. 34:1 - "And the LORD said to Moses, Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke."

God Wants His Law Written On Our Hearts

- It was not His will that it stay on the stones
 - Ex. 24:12 - “Then the LORD said to Moses, Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.”
 - Psalm 40:8-10 - “I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart. 9 I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know. 10 I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly.”

God Wants His Law Written On Our Hearts

- It was not His will that it stay on the stones
 - Matt. 15:8-9 - “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
 - Matt. 23:23 - “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”

God Wants His Law Written On Our Hearts

- Today, it is God's will that His law be written on our hearts
 - 2Cor. 3:3 - "Clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."
 - Ez. 36:26 - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."
 - Rom. 6:17 - "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered."

This Is The Only True Means To A Happy And Fulfilling Life

- It has been said that the way to happiness is to keep your needs simple and your wants few.
- A Chinese proverb states:
 - “If you want happiness for an hour — take a nap.’
 - If you want happiness for a day — go fishing.
 - If you want happiness for a year — inherit a fortune.
 - If you want happiness for a lifetime — help someone else.”

This Is The Only True Means To A Happy And Fulfilling Life

- There is a better way: The way to happiness is to conform your want to's to God's ought to's for you
- Make a list of your duties to God, and then make a list of your personal desires, and lay them side by side
- This can indicate why you are happy as a Christian, if the two lists are very similar
- If they are very different, it can explain why you may be unhappy as a Christian and view your duty to God as a great burden

God's Will Was Christ's Desire

- John 8:28-29 - “Then Jesus said to them, When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”
- John 14:9 - “Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?”

How My Duties Can Become My Desires

- First, accept that changing your desires and what makes you happy can be done by every human being
- Paul changed his desires by choosing Christ
 - Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

How My Duties Can Become My Desires

- Phil. 3:4-9 - “Though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith”

How My Duties Can Become My Desires

- It begins with making a determined choice
 - Jer. 9:23-24 - “Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.”

How My Duties Can Become My Desires

- Next, start practicing your duties, whether or not it is your desire
 - Psalm 116:10-14 - “I believed, therefore I spoke, I am greatly afflicted. 11 I said in my haste, All men are liars. 12 What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me? 13 I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the LORD. 14 I will pay my vows to the LORD Now in the presence of all His people.”
 - Ecc. 2:15 - “So I said in my heart, As it happens to the fool, It also happens to me, And why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, This also is vanity.”
 - Isa. 38:9-17
 - Our desires are changeable, even fickle, and often uninformed

How My Duties Can Become My Desires

- Read your Bible to know what your duties are.
 - 2Tim. 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
 - 2Peter 1:10 - “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble”
 - Matt. 13:51-52 - “Jesus said to them, Have you understood all these things? They said to Him, Yes, Lord. 52 Then He said to them, Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

How My Duties Can Become My Desires

- Pray for help with the acceptance, with the practice, with the change in your desires, with the learning of your duty
- It is hard to dislike the will of God while we are praying to Him.
 - Psalm 51:10, 12 - “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me... 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”