

**Abundant Life Church
Pastor Steve Finton
December 31, 2017**

Series: ***The Year of Getting What You Really Want***
Title: ***Thinking It Through***

What do you want in 2018?

- Is what you want a *who*?
- Is what you want a *what*?
- Is what you want a *thing*?
- Is what you want a *state of mind*?

If you get, what you want, will you really be happy?

The most common issue I see with couples is a lack of intentional investment in their marriage.

If you are intentional in relationships, your feelings will change.

If your feelings of love are waning, they can be recovered.

Are you sure that what you want is *really* what you want?

What we naturally want is often in conflict with what we ultimately value.

Good news: Your heavenly Father knows what you need.

Romans 8:26 (NCV)

Also, the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain.

Romans 8:28 (NCV)

We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him.

I want to change your mind about what you think you really want

James 4:2-3

You want things, but you do not have them. So you are ready to kill and are jealous of other people, but you still cannot get what you want. So you argue and fight. You do not get what you want, because you do not ask God. 3 Or when you ask, you do not receive because the reason you ask is wrong. You want things so you can use them for your own pleasures.

We don't get what we want because:

1. We don't ask God
2. Our reasons for wanting are wrong
3. What we want is just for ourselves

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Psalms 18:39-40 (NCV)

You gave me strength in battle. You made my enemies bow before me. 40 You made my enemies turn back, and I destroyed those who hated me.

Psalms 18:41 (NCV)

They called for help, but no one came to save them. They called to the Lord, but he did not answer them.

James 4:3 (NCV)

...When you ask, you do not receive because the reason you ask is wrong. You want things so you can use them for your own pleasures.

Wrong Prayer #1: Perpetual pleasure

Wrong Prayer #2: I want to get my way

Wrong Prayer #3: What I want... I want now!

Wrong Prayer #4: I want to do what I want to do

Lurking in the shadows of what we want is what we value.

If what we want leads to a cycle of wanting more and more, then God says we want the wrong things.

The answer to what we really value exists in a realm we rarely explore.

Hebrews 11: 24-26 (NCV)

It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of the king of Egypt's daughter. He chose to suffer with God's people instead of enjoying sin for a short time. He thought it was better to suffer for the Christ than to have all the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking for God's reward.

The larger the gap between what we think we want and what we truly value produces the distress we feel in life.