

## HOW DESIRES TAKE CONTROL

Maybe you're thinking, "How do the normal desires of daily living take control of the heart?"

### CONSIDER THE STEPS:

MORPHS INTO

- **Desire:** "I Want." Nothing wrong here yet.

MORPHS INTO

- **Demand:** "I Must." The desire is no longer an expression of love for God and man, but something I crave for myself.

FORMS INTO

- **Need:** "I Will." Something desirable is now seen as essential. I am convinced that I cannot live without it.
- We now consider it essential for life.

LEADS TO

- **Expectation:** "You Should." This is where my relationships begin to be affected. If I really believe that this is a need, then it seems right to expect that you will meet my need if you really love me.

LEADS TO

- **Disappointment:** "You Didn't." Anger breaks out and becomes personal. "You are standing in the way of what rules my heart."
- I judge you by the rules of MY kingdom. You broke the law of MY kingdom

BROKEN RELATIONSHIP

- **Punishment:** "Because you didn't, I will..." I respond to you in anger (silent treatment, hurtful words, vengeance, or violence.)
- I will "strike back" until MY vengeance is satisfied.

### THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Even a good thing becomes a bad thing when it becomes a ruling thing.
- Even when we make a good thing the ultimate thing, we are idolaters.
- The battle of redemption is the battle to control the heart.
- Salvation is unlocking the chain in our fists.
- Sanctification is peeling our hands away from whatever we are holding on to.
- Desire is at the root of every anger.
- Righteous anger is anger toward the sin and leads us to pray.
- Unrighteous anger is anger toward the person and leads us to anger.
- Spiritual warfare is the never-ending war for control of the heart between Spirit and flesh.
- Responses are shaped by what's in the heart.
- We are often at odds with our wise and loving Lord because the change he is working on is not the change we have dreamt about. We dream about change in *it*, while God is working in the midst of it to change *us*.
- What does he want to change us from and to? He wants to change us from people who *live unto themselves* to people who are literally *like him*.
- Living for Christ is the only thing we can live for that will fulfill us rather than destroy us.