Is Your Destination an Idle Wish or a Burning Desire? (Desire)

Proverbs 2:3-5

Introduction:

1. Most of us are disgusted at people who want something for nothing and we are sometimes guilty of the same thing!
2. *The Little Red Hen*.
3. Have you ever made the statement, “I’d give anything to...”, and then never do it?
4. These idle thoughts are simply wishes of people who want something for nothing:  Have you ever said, “I’d give anything to:
   1. “Play a piano”?
   2. “Make all A’s and B’s in school”?
   3. “Know the Bible”?
5. Have you ever said this about:
   1. Having a Christian home?
   2. Attending worship.  There is a young man who is a victim of polio in South Bend, Indiana.  This young man lives in an iron lung and is allowed to spend only four hours per week out of this machine that is essential to his life.

Every Sunday morning, he is taken out of the lung so he may attend Bible study and worship. It is his decision to spend half of his free time from the lung attending to spiritual matters. Think of this young man the next time you consider missing an assembly.

* 1. Teach a Sunday School class?
  2. Do personal work, lead someone to Christ?

1. The problem in each case is lack of genuine desire, a passion to accomplish a definite goal.
   1. Anyone can do anything he really wants to if lie wants to badly enough.
   2. One’s desire is usually limited by the thought of the work involved.
      1. Two men saw an add in the paper: “Mule for Sale.”  When they arrived the farmer had already sold it.  He sold them a “mule egg” for $25.00.  When the watermelon fell from the pickup truck and a jack rabbit started running, one said to the other, “Let him go.  We don’t want to plow that fast anyway.”
      2. A fine woman pianist once gave a performance for a large group of women.  Afterwards, over coffee, a woman gushed to the virtuoso, “I’d give any thing to play as you do.”

The woman who had given the concert took a sip of her coffee and fixed the red-faced, slightly perspiring matron with a cold gaze. Then she said, “Oh no you wouldn’t”.

A hush fell over the group, coffee cups stopped on their ways to and from saucers, and the perspiring matron squirmed in sudden embarrassment. Looking about her she repeated, but in a softer voice, her original statement, “I would too, give anything to play the piano as you do.”

The female virtuoso continued to sip her coffee and shake her head. “No you wouldn’t,” she repeated.  “If you would, you would play as well as I do, possibly better possibly a little worse.  You’d give anything to play as well as I do, except time...except the one thing it takes.  You wouldn’t sit and practice, hour after hour, day after day, year after year.  Then she flashed a warm smile, “please understand,” she said, “I’m not criticizing.  I’m just telling you that when you say you’d give anything to play as I do, you really don’t mean it.  You really don’t mean 1t at all” (*This Is Earl Nightingale*, by Earl Nightingale, page 319).

1. Desire is the key to accomplishment.
   1. A beggar knocked on the door of an overweight woman and said, “Lady, I haven’t had anything to eat in 6 days.” She looked at him and sighed, “Oh, Mister, how I wish I had your will power.”
   2. Let us see what desire can accomplish and how it can be developed.
2. GOALS THAT CAN BE REACHED WITH SUFFICIENT DESIRE.
   1. Many think that they do not have the ability to serve God.
   2. But God through His word says that we can – if we want to.
      1. God’s blessings can be a enjoyed – Love, Joy, Peace. Matthew 7:7, 8.
      2. Knowledge of God’s will. John 7:17; Proverbs 2:3-5; 1 Peter 2:2
         1. Jerrie Wayne starved for 2½ weeks.
         2. At three months, he ate two cases of baby food each week.
      3. Salvation. Psalms 42:1; Revelation 22:17
      4. Work and service for the Lord. 1 Timothy 3:1
3. HOW TO DEVELOP DESIRE AND TRANSLATE IT INTO ACTION.
   1. Make a list of the things you would like to accomplish in this year.
   2. Pick out the one thing you want to do first. Philippians 3:13, 14; Romans 1:15
   3. Know positively that anything that is right can be done. 2 Corinthians 5:7; James 1:5-8; Matthew 5:6
      1. A young man came to Socrates one day and said, “Mr. Socrates, I want knowledge.  Show me how I can have knowledge.”

“Son, how sadly do you want knowledge?” asked the great philosopher.

“Oh, Mr. Socrates, I want knowledge more than anything else in this world,” he said.

“I repeat,” Socrates said, “How much do you want it?  Come with me, son.”  And they went down to the lake shore and waded in until the water came to their necks.  Then the great philosopher put his hand upon the head of the young man and pushed him under the water.  He squirmed, he struggled desperately, but Socrates kept him under the water.  Finally, just before the boy was about to drown, Socrates released his hold and let him up.  They went pack and sat down.  Socrates said, “Son, when you were under the water what did you want more than any other thing in the world?  He replied, “Oh, Mr. Socrates, what I wanted was air!”  Socrates made his point, “When you want knowledge as much as you want air under the water, then you will get knowledge.”

* 1. Consider the blessings of the task accomplished and the penalty of failure.
     1. Knowledge. Psalms 119:105, 130; 1 Peter 3:15; Hosea 4.6
     2. Salvation. 2 Peter 1:10,11; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
     3. Serving the unfortunate. Matthew 25:34-36; Matthew 25:41,43
     4. Teaching those in sin. 3 John 4; Ezekiel 33:8,9
     5. Using the ability we have, Matthew 25:21; Matthew 25:30; Matthew 25:29.
  2. Think about the goal you have selected often.
     1. Write it down.
     2. Read it every morning and night.
     3. Picture yourself as having accomplished it.
     4. Associate and talk with others who are interested in the same thing.
     5. Put yourself on the spot−tell others about your goal.  A turtle only makes progress when its neck is stuck out.
  3. Spend some time every day reading and studying how to accomplish what you desire.
  4. Begin now to do what you can, however small it may seem, to work toward your goal.
     1. Personal work−visit.
     2. Elder, Deacon−worship, cooperate, participate in business meetings, volunteer for work.
     3. Teach−learn.
     4. Preach−be example, study.
  5. Be persistent, keep going, realizing there will be temporary setbacks but the final outcome will be success if we travel the right path in the right way.
     1. On a cold February day a snail was climbing a tree.  A worm shouted, “you’re wasting your time.  There isn’t a single apple in that tree.”  As the snail kept climbing, he shouted back, “There will be when I get there.”
     2. Do not be stopped by unjust criticism, because 95% do not have a goal, have no real desire to succeed, do not know where they are going−they want something for nothing.
     3. Keep advancing when the way seems impossible for that is when victory is realized.
     4. Temporary setback and seeming handicaps will not defeat the person with real desire.
        1. Woodrow Wilson did not learn the alphabet until he was nine, didn’t read until he was 11, and was considered by relatives to be dull and backward.  At Princeton University, his grades were only fair; but his brilliant oratorical style began to blossom at the same time, paying the way for his two distinguished presidencies – of Princeton and of the United States.
        2. General Patton had even harder sledding.  At 12 he could not read.  It took him five years to get through West Point, and at that he made it only by laboriously memorizing his textbook word for word. (*Reader’s Digest*, February 1976, “The Enduring Mystery of Dyslexia,” page 23).

Conclusion:

1. What do you want to do for the Lord?
   1. Do you really want it, desire it, or is it just an idle wish?
   2. Determine to accomplish greater things for the Lord.
2. If you are lost this morning, realize it is because that is where you want to be.
   1. The unfaithful member or alien may have many excuses:
      1. “Too many hypocrites.”
      2. “I don’t know enough.”
      3. “I’m too sinful.”
      4. “I’m afraid I can’t hold out.”
   2. If you leave here today unsaved, the real reason is that really, deep down, you do not want to be saved. Matthew 23:37
   3. If you desire, Jesus will save. Revelation 22:17
      1. Alien - Acts 2:38
      2. Erring. 1 John 1:9