

we were one of the first, if not the first. **I admit that my “flesh” had a hard time at first with all the ideas that were flooding into my mind. My thoughts and desires still had a long way to go, but the process of “alignment” had started.** At that very moment, I realized all that would be involved -- tracking multiple mailing lists, fund codes, donors, redesigning every procedure, every piece of mail – basically, changing everything that we were doing. In some ways, my flesh initially resisted the idea because I felt like I might lose my personal freedom. Yet, I wanted God’s will more than my own. Thus, the next morning I told the couple that God had changed my mind and we would be happy to help them. **Now, several decades later, we have helped hundreds of missionaries through the years. We also help over 1,000 native workers each month with our free study materials.**

In retrospect, it’s easy to see how our Missionary Agency was a logical next step in my call to world missions. But at the time, my vision was limited. I think that’s the way it is for most of us. **God has to break through the blindness of our minds at times with the light of His guidance.** I think the key that allows us to flow with God’s plan is to stay in His Word, maintain our fellowship with Him, and keep our hearts open to His will. As I look forward to the next several decades, I have no doubt that our Missionary Agency will grow to many hundreds of missionaries. There seems to be a resurgence of new workers headed to the mission field in these last days, and they all need a home office to help them. There’s not a week that passes now, without new missionaries contacting us with stories similar to the first couple we helped. By the way, the original couple in the Philippines later came to the States and worked in our office to help establish our Missionary Agency. Thank God for His grace and mercy that helps us flow in His plans, if we are but willing.

## Turning Desires into Reality

The “secret of desire” is truly an extensive subject throughout the Bible. We could spend much more time on various aspects, but I want to quickly give you several keys that will help you align your desires and life with God’s plan:

1. **ABIDE** - make abiding in Christ your first priority each day. As you fellowship with Him, your heart will be in a place to receive His input. John 15:1-8

2. **SUBMIT** - submit your desires and plans. When you have a desire or goal, take time to “submit it” to God. Specifically ask Him to either approve it, revise it, or reject it. This is an important part of the “alignment” process. James 4:6,7

3. **WISDOM** - once you sense God’s plan forming in your heart and mind, ask God for wisdom. This is where developing a plan of action, steps, and strategies come in. James 1:5 clearly says that God wants to liberally give us His wisdom.

4. **WRITE THE VISION** - Habakkuk 2:1-2 says that we are to write the vision once we hear from God. Get in the habit of writing your goals. Work on them, revise them, and formulate your ideas on paper.

5. **SEE IT** - start “seeing” yourself accomplishing the goals. Think of this key as “mental simulation.” Use the power of your imagination. We train pilots and athletes this way. The Bible calls this step meditation. Joshua 1:8

6. **SAY IT** – begin speaking positively about your goal. The Bible makes it clear that “speaking faith” is an important ingredient for victory. 2 Corinthians 4:13

7. **DO IT** – be creative and put actions to your faith. Even if you don’t have money, you can at least walk through the property, do research, etc. “Do something” to release your faith. James 2:18



Dear friend, my prayer is that your heart will be ablaze with the dreams, desires, and plans of God!

■ Jason Peebles

## Key Memory Verse:

*“Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”*

*Psalm 37:4*

## Prayer for God’s Desires

*“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. Fill me with the knowledge of your will and your desires. I choose your plans above my own. Thank you for your great love, in Jesus Name – Amen.”*

We hope this Study Guide helps you. Sign up online to receive our FREE studies each month. *World Outreach Ministries* is the home office for interdenominational missionaries around the world. It was founded in 1979 by Jason Peebles. Our missionaries are from all types of church backgrounds and are involved in a variety of outreaches – evangelism, schools, medical clinics, children’s shelters, aviation, church planting, translation work, broadcasting, leadership training, and support roles. God’s kingdom has all kinds of workers!

We are a faith ministry – that is, we look to God to impress friends like you to help. If this Study Guide encourages you, then please consider supporting our *Missionary Agency*. You can help with a One-time gift or automatic Monthly gifts with your credit or debit card via our website. Thank you for your support!

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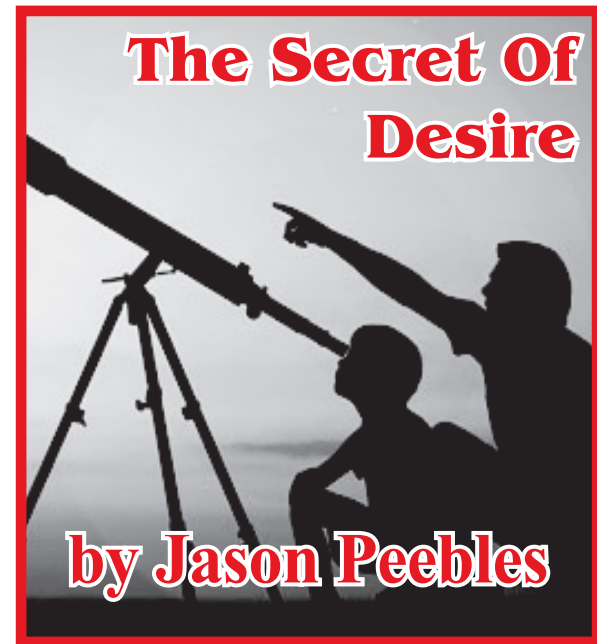
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This study will help you discover a powerful secret for success. It will help you step into a dimension where the desires and plans of your heart can become rightly aligned with God’s desires. In John 5:19 Jesus said, *“The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do.”* In verse 30 He said, *“I can of mine own self do nothing; as I hear, I judge.”* **Young Christians tend to think that every idea and desire they have is subject to God’s approval. But like Christ, we must learn to distinguish between what the Father wants and what “we” want.** When we do, we are promised extraordinary results! John 15:7 says, *“If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you.”*

## The Garden of Your Heart

For a moment, let’s look at a secret that Jesus taught in the *Parable of the Sower* (Mark 4:13-20). Jesus used a simple agricultural illustration to teach a profound truth. And what is the secret? **The secret is that your heart and mind function much like the soil in a garden. Whatever “seeds” you plant there will begin an immediate process of germinating, growing, and producing results.** Thus, you must

protect the garden of your heart by planting good seeds. If you allow the wrong kind of seeds (thoughts) to grow in your heart, then you will be headed for trouble. On the other hand, if you plant good seeds, then you will get a good crop. **Your thoughts, desires, and plans are the “seeds” that produce your future. What takes place on the “inside” eventually determines what you get on the “outside.”**

In the *Parable of the Sower*, Jesus emphasized the need to plant the seed of God’s Word in our hearts. Mark 4:14 clearly says, *“The sower sows the Word.”* **More than any other type of seed, God’s Word has supernatural power to produce wonderful benefits and blessings in your life.** There are many benefits that God’s Word has (which would be a wonderful study of its own) – and one of them is to help align your heart’s desires with God’s will. Another benefit is that God’s Word has a healing and therapeutic effect in your mind and emotions. Ephesians 5:26-27 says that God’s Word will wash (cleanse and heal) every spot and wrinkle (in other words, those areas that are damaged or stained in your emotions). God wants you to be free to pursue His plan without being hindered by past wounds, hurts, and painful memories.

The secret described in the *Parable of the Sower* has profound implications when you really understand it. Jesus taught relatively uneducated people by today’s standards by using the “seed principle” in relation to our thought life. For one thing, it means that if someone is not happy with their life right now, then they can use this secret to their advantage. **Anyone can radically improve their future expectations by changing the kind of seeds they start planting now.** If they will start planting God’s Word now, then a future crop of God’s blessings will eventually overtake their current problems. God’s Word is the most powerful type of seed that you can plant. Unfortunately, the secret that Jesus taught in the *Parable of the Sower* is something that most people never seem to really grasp. Even Jesus said that this “mystery” required the inspiration of God to fully grasp (Mk 4:11-13). **Most people go through life assuming that they can watch any movie, listen to any music, entertain any thought, and then somehow get a good crop in the future.** That’s just as ridiculous as a farmer who thinks that he

can plant weeds and get a harvest of delicious apples! It doesn’t work that way in the natural realm and it doesn’t work that way in the spiritual realm either.

Throughout the Bible you will find this “inside/outside” connection. The seeds on the “inside” will determine the results you get on the “outside.” **You can see the same idea when Jesus taught on abiding in the vine. John 15:7 says, “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you.”** As we pointed out earlier, Jesus promises amazing results (answered prayers on the “outside”) when we truly abide in Him (on the “inside”). Wouldn’t you like to experience more of *“whatever you ask shall be done unto you?”* Wouldn’t you like to have the desires of your heart more aligned with the Father’s will? The invitation of John 15:7 is still open to us today.



## Miracle in the Philippines

Let me give you an example from my own life that took place many years ago in the Philippines. **This story perfectly illustrates how our own desires at times must go through a process of being rightly aligned with God’s desires.** On this particular trip, I was scheduled to spend a couple of weeks in the Philippines for crusades and leadership conferences. I always loved going to the Philippines because I found great receptivity to the gospel there. I think part of the reason for this is how the United States helped the Filipino people during World War II. There was a

whole generation of people in the Philippines who had first-hand knowledge of that era – and they seemed to show great respect for Americans. How different it is today for our missionaries around the world! Anyway, while on this trip, I met a missionary couple who made a very specific request of me. **Little did I realize how this unplanned encounter would alter the rest of my life and ministry.**

From the time I accepted Christ in high school, I had a “knowing” in my heart that I was called to full-time ministry. As my walk with Christ matured, I began to realize that my calling had something to do with apostolic-style missions. **I remember standing by the beautiful fountains on the Oral Roberts University campus one evening, and hearing the voice of God speak in my heart and mind.** If I’ve ever heard God, I heard Him clearly that night. However, I did not understand the “hows” of how it would happen. I sensed the Spirit of the Lord telling me that my ministry would be similar to the cascading fountain that I was looking at. The fountain started off with a small flow of water at the top and then flowed to increasingly larger pools below. I sensed the Lord telling me that my ministry would start with just me, but in time would involve many others. At that moment, though, I did not see how it would happen or the mechanics of it.

That experience was not the only time I sensed the Lord encouraging me with His desires and plans. I remember on another occasion He showed me (in my mind and heart) a map of the entire world with lights all over it. It was like one of those satellite photos you see when all the major cities of the world are lit up. I sensed the Lord telling me that the lights were some of the places that I would personally go to for His Name’s sake. Then, as if someone flipped on another switch, a second set of lights appeared all over the map. **Since that time, I have come to believe that the second set of lights represented all the missionaries who would later call our office “their” home office. Still though, in those early days, I did not understand “how” it would happen.** I had only just started entertaining the concept of a Missionary Agency. It’s one thing to have a “vision” for a ministry, a business, etc. – and quite another thing to understand how to get started and do it. You have to remember that we began in 1979 – long before the advent of faxes, computers, email, cell phones, and all

the things that we now take for granted. None of those things existed for the general public at the time.

Thus, when I traveled to the Philippines on that particular trip, it was just “me” and one man who faithfully worked with me as a helper. As I mentioned, a missionary couple approached me and told me of their sad plight. A church in Texas had been handling all their newsletters, their incoming donations, bank deposits, receipt letters, and a host of other administrative duties that every missionary requires in order to operate. The church that had helped them was going through a split and could not continue. Basically, the missionaries were in a real mess, and asked me if my office would handle all their needs. **Now, here is the part of the story that I really want you to see – and how I nearly missed a HUGE miracle. My first reaction was a knee-jerk reaction. I said “NO.”** Yes, I had the desire to do more in missions, but it was quite vague in my mind how I would do it, other than conduct more crusades and more leadership conferences. Thus, the desires and plans of my heart needed to be “aligned” with God’s desires. **In my mind, what they were asking me to do just represented a bunch of extra busy work that we did not need. After all, I reasoned, “I” was focused on glorious crusades – not office work!** In retrospect it’s almost laughable, if not sad, that I was that blind -- but I think that’s the way we all are without the Holy Spirit’s help and illumination. There I was seeking God about how to reach more people for Christ and God was sending me His answer. In those days, personal evangelistic associations were in vogue, and so my ministry was focused on “me” and “my” ministry. Like that fountain, I was a small flow of water at the top and God was trying to take me to the next level. Thus, without giving it too much thought, I politely listened and then said “NO” to them right on the spot. That night, as I lay in my bed, tired from the crusade and leadership conference, the Spirit of the Lord started speaking to my heart. Basically, He told me that I was about to miss the next step in His plan. He told me that He wanted me to change my entire view of things. As if someone was downloading a computer file, I quickly saw a list of things to do. I was to change our name to *World Outreach Ministries* and start our Missionary Agency. There are many groups that now use the phrase “World Outreach” in their slogans, but