

#09

KILLER SINS

Foundational cravings influence the rest.

"I CRAVE"

did NOT start out as a killer sin.

When we (the human race) CHOSE to sin, we turned it into one.

Life has been a mess ever since then.

As long as our #1 CRAVE was in GOD:

Everything else fell right into place.

Delight yourself in the LORD;
And He will give you the **desires** of your heart.

Psalm 37:4 (NASB)

We would have never craved ANYTHING that was contrary to the will of God!

Originally,
we could have described
"I CRAVE"
as
A GIFT FROM GOD!



↳ **SIN** twisted and distorted it.

↳ **JESUS** offers to restore it to its original goodness.

When God becomes the #1 CRAVE of our life:

Our desires begin to be fulfilled ...

... what the righteous **desire** will be granted.

Proverbs 10:24b (NIV)

... because we want **God's will to be FIRST** in our lives.

LIKE JESUS: "... not my will but yours be done."

Luke 22:42 (LEB)

God guarantees that our ultimate desires will be fulfilled.

The final outcome will be the good we desire ...

The **desire** of the righteous ends only in good, ...

Proverbs 11:23a (NIV)

... even if it is delayed for a **better** good.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Ro 8:28 (ESV)

TODAY'S FOCUS:
Examples of "I CRAVE" that are good.

- (a return to) **CRAVINGS/desires** – those which people would have had before sin entered the world. 
- (additional) **CRAVINGS/desires** – for the removal of sin, for God's presence among us, etc. 

Scripture contains many good examples.
 But here is the...

KEY POINT:  Scripture goes right to the foundation: the issues that influence one's values.

THE BIBLE'S MAIN FOCUS:

- ✓ **YES:** ➤ God and his Word; holiness and godly living.
- ✓ **NO:** ➤ Issues many people describe as: "daily life," or "life in the here and now." *

* (Especially when they see no connection between godliness and daily life.)

Foundational issues MUST be our starting point.

THE RESULTING VALUES IN "DAILY LIFE"

➤ God and his Word. ➤ Holiness and godly living.

✓ If our foundation changes, the values that influence the secondary issues will also change.
 ✓ If you aren't interested in the foundation, it is proof that your values have NOT changed. You are unsaved.

What about UNSAVED people?

CAN UNSAVED PEOPLE HAVE GOOD CRAVINGS?

In some respects, YES.

BUT HERE'S THE PROBLEM:

- ✓ Their lives are built on a false foundation; so their GOOD CRAVES do not have pure, God-honoring motives.
- ✓ They often can't do what they think is right and desirable.

What a person **desires** is unfailing love; ...
 Proverbs 19:22a (NIV11)

Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?
 Proverbs 20:6 (NIV11)

(Only in Christ can this can be done.)

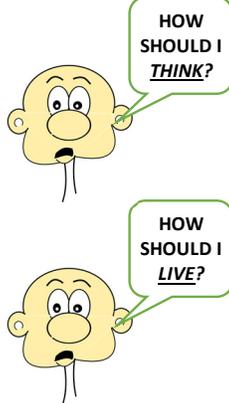
IF WE REJECT THE WAYS OF OUR SINFUL NATURE AND PURSUE WHAT IS GOOD...

WHAT TYPES OF CRAVES (desires, longings, wants, etc.) WILL WE HAVE?

(Examples of "I CRAVE" that are good.)

(As you see these examples, REMEMBER...)

- The **FACTS** of Scripture (taken in context) are intended to influence our thoughts & attitudes.
- The **COMMANDS** of Scripture (taken in context) are intended to influence our actions.



If sin had never entered our hearts, our greatest desire would have been:

- ✓ To see God exalted in ourselves and in the whole earth.

Whom have I in heaven but you?
I **desire** you more than anything on earth.

Psalm 73:25 (NLT)

We **desire** your fame and reputation to grow.

Isaiah 26:8b (NET)



This is the same #1 desire people have when they are saved.



When people turn to God for salvation, this becomes their greatest desire.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9b-10 (NIV)

[Fakes can quote this prayer. Only God's people have it as the desire of their hearts.]

As the deer pants for streams of water, so I **long for** you, O God.

I thirst for God, the living God. When can I come and stand before him?

Psalm 42:1-2 (NLT)

MORE foundational desires:

- ✓ We will **crave** God's commands and instructions; and the righteous life they reveal!

How I **long for** your precepts!

Psalm 119:40a (NIV)

My soul is consumed with **longing** for your laws at all times.

Psalm 119:20 (NIV)

Because I **love** your commands **more than** gold, more than pure gold, and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path.

Psalm 119:127-128 (NIV)

- ✓ Since we were born in sin, we will **crave** God's salvation from our sinful life.

O Lord, I have **longed for** your salvation, and your law is my delight.

Psalm 119:174 (NLT)

- ❖ We will want to sin less.

Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!

Psalm 119:5 (NIV)

- ❖ We will **crave** righteousness and holiness!

Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst** for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6 (NASB)

- ✓ We will have "future-focused" longings:

- ❖ The day when sin will be permanently removed from us.

We grow weary in our present bodies, and we **long for** the day when we will put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing.

2 Cor. 5:2 (NLT)

- ❖ The day when we will enter God's presence... forever.

[Those] ... who **eagerly look forward** to his glorious return.

2 Tim. 4:8b (NLT)

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

All these CRAVINGS will affect the way we live.

Dear friends, now we are God's children. What we will be isn't completely clear yet.

We do know that when Christ appears we will be like him because we will see him as he is.

So all people who have this confidence in Christ keep themselves pure, as Christ is pure.

1 John 3:2-3 (GW)

✓ They will affect our values related to the "here and now."

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

If desires like these are your greatest CRAVINGS ...

✓ Everything else in life will fall into place.

BECAUSE I LOVE GOD, I AM MAKING CHANGES IN MY LIFE ...

Until then ...

✓ Telling you about the changes you need will accomplish very little.

STOP JUDGING ME, YOU HYPOCRITE! *

* TYPICAL RESPONSE, EVEN WHEN: (1) IT'S GOD'S JUDGMENT (NOT YOURS); (2) SCRIPTURE TELLS YOU TO SAY IT; AND (3) YOU AREN'T BEING HYPOCRITICAL!



Do these foundational CRAVINGS represent the desire of your heart?

If your salvation is genuine ...

✓ **YOU HAVE THE POWER.**

- God has given you both the desire to do them and the ability to do them!

For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.

Philip. 2:13 (NLT)

If your salvation is genuine ...

✓ **YOU WILL GROW IN "CHRIST-LIKENESS."**

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephes. 2:10 (NIV)

✓ **IT'S THE ONLY OPTION A SAVED PERSON CAN HAVE!**

Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as [Christ] is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, ...

1 John 3:7b-8a (ESV)

If your salvation is genuine ...

✓ **YOU HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT SALVATION IS NOT A "KEEP ON SINNING AND GET OUT OF HELL FREE" CARD.**

Take a Chance

THIS CARD MAY BE KEPT UNTIL NEEDED OR SOLD

GET OUT OF HELL FREE

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(If that's all you want, it's because you are not saved.)

