

SUBMITTING OUR DESIRES TO THE LORD

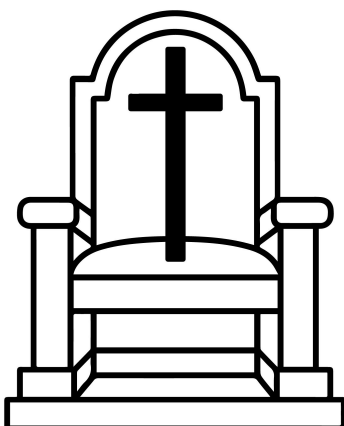
Homework

Throne Room Staircase

We all have a throne in our heart. Before we were in Christ, “I” was on the throne. When we believe and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ we submit to God’s authority in our lives. Christ reigns on the throne in our hearts.

Mark 12:30

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.



For believers, Christ alone must sit on the throne of our hearts. However, there are other desires that are at war within us. James 4:1-3 illustrates these types of desires.

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

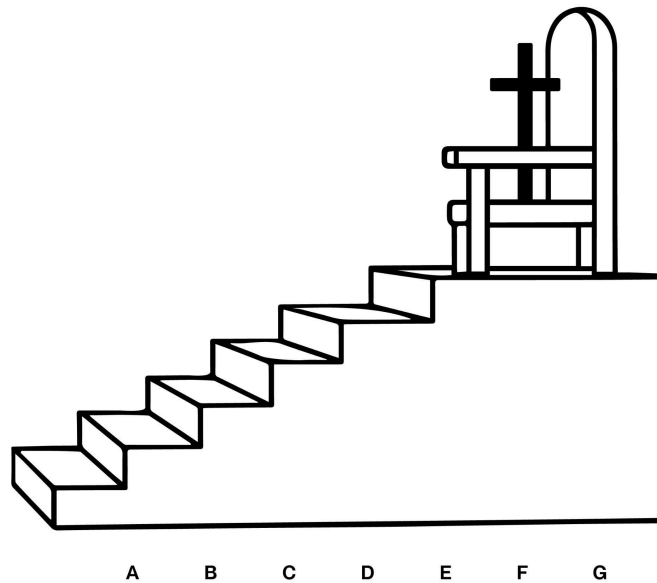
³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

Not all of our desires are bad. For example, a mother has the desire for her child to obey or a husband has a desire to be respected. These are legitimate desires.

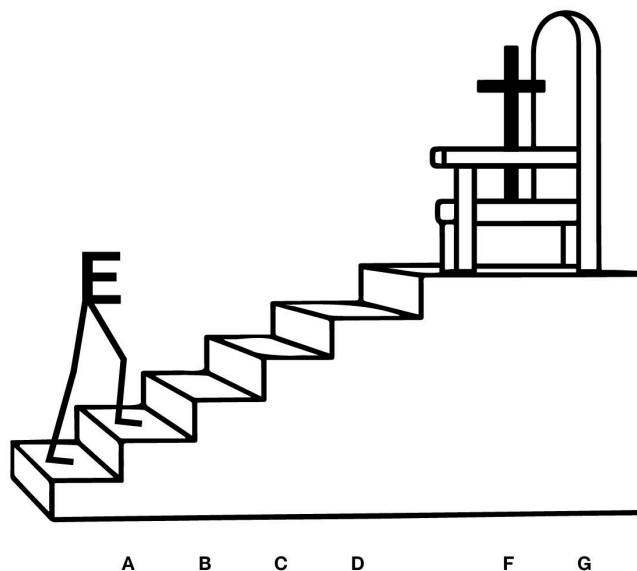
The problem comes when desires give birth to conflict in this way:

I DESIRE → I DEMAND → I JUDGE → I PUNISH

My initial (possibly legitimate) desire becomes sinful when it becomes a demand. When it becomes an unmet demand, I judge the other person. My internal judgment produces some sort of outward expression of punishment.



The Letters under the throne represent specific desires. When a desire becomes a demand it “sprouts legs” and begins to ascend the staircase, rising to the top of the throne to compete with Jesus for lordship over my heart.



In a well-ordered life where the person is seeking to love and obey Jesus with their whole heart, mind, soul and strength, *all* of our desires (whether met or unmet) are placed under the authority of Jesus. When we submit our desires to Christ, God reorders our desires to reflect what He wants and my soul finds rest.

Adapted from Sande, Ken in *Peacemaker* Chapter 5, Progression of an Idol

Adapted from Jones D., Robert in *Pursuing Peace* Chapter 4, Throne Staircase diagram

The Four R's Provide A Proactive Plan For Reordering Your Desires

01—

Recognize the way this specific desire has become a demand and is controlling you. Here are three questions to detect if a good desire has become a ruling desire such as seen in James 4:1-3:

- Does it consume my thoughts? Do I obsess about it? Does my mind drift to it often?
- Do I sin to get it? Do I manipulate other people or situations to get what I want? Do I bargain or nag or try to guilt trip?
- Do I sin when I don't get it? Do I pout or explode or pull away or gossip about someone when he or she doesn't give me my desired thing?

02—

Repent, not of the desire itself, but of the “ruling-ness” of the desire—in other words, the way it has become a demand. Repent of the “ascendingness” of the desire. This act of obedience will “chop off the legs” of the desires.

03—

Refocus your heart on God—His grace, His provisions and His promises.
Look up these verses and make a gratitude list of what is already yours in Christ:
2 Peter 1:3 / Psalm 23 / Psalm 73:23-28 / Ephesians 1:3-14

04—

List your ideas for how you can begin to replace the sinful behavior with appropriate godly behavior.