

What do you want?

by Lou Stoops

Now there's an interesting question. Does your life fit well with what you want? Many would say that their life doesn't resemble their wants at all. Why is that? Well, a person's wants are often cloaked in rather dreamy terms. What I mean is that they've never put real world thinking and action toward going after their wants. They've just toyed with them instead of seriously pursuing them. Yet they feel somehow cheated. They complain that others have while they have not. Do you feel that way? If so, get over it!

People that achieve their dreams and get what they want are people who are willing to put the effort into discovering solutions to the obstacles and taking the actions necessary to overcome them. You and I win when we want something so much that we're motivated to get off the couch and go after it. No longer hiding behind excuses but taking responsibility for your own life's outcome, that's the beginning of winning.

We've all known individuals that had enormous potential yet never seemed self-aware enough to do what they were capable of. Suppose they're folk who think that about us? Maybe we have been so busy observing others languish that we've failed to see how much we're missing. It doesn't have to stay that way. The best time to go after what you want in life is now. It's all we're sure of. You can't go back to yesterday, it's gone. You can't go forward to the future; you don't know what that will bring. The only time you can take charge of is now.

What do you want? What's stopping you? Procrastination is the answer for some. They mean to go after what they want but not now. What really holds them back? Fear. Fear is at the heart of procrastination. Faced with obstacles and difficulties, dread takes over. This keeps them from making the most of each opportunity and each moment. They deal with the fear by putting off to an unspecified time the thing they should be doing right now. They doom themselves to always wanting but never getting.

When you answer the question, you must then take a sober look at what you've allowed to stop you. You then must decide if you're going to continue as you have, or change. To change, you must overcome your fear. What are you afraid of? Is it hard to go after what you want? So what! Get used to it. If you want weeds you need do nothing. But a magnificent garden will be hard to accomplish. Good things in life are often hard to get. A good marriage takes hard work. A successful career in any field requires hard work. To be a great athlete is hard work. Get the picture? Get over any aversion to hard work or you'll never get what you want.

It's a terrible waste to go through life never having gone after the things you really want. Life is a precious gift and is often squandered through bitterness and blame. This shouldn't be. Take charge of yourself and embark on your quest. If your desires are moral and noble, then you should make the brave attempt. Regret is truly a thing to pity, so vow to live in such a manner so as not to accrue it. In America, we get to pursue our dreams if we want to. You don't have to, you get to. What do you want? Go for it!