

Study of the word ‘desire/passions’ [Gk: *epithymia*] in the New Testament

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noun. an intense desire for some particular thing.

אֲרָוָה *wh* ἐπιθυμία *wh* *epithymia*;

Lk 22:15 And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

Php 1:23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

Col 3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

1 Th 2:17 But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face,

1 Ti 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

2 Ti 2:22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Tt 2:12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

Jas 1:14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

Jas 1:15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

1 Pe 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

2 Pe 2:18 For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.

1 Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

Re 18:14 “The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost to you, never to be found again!”

1939. ἐπιθυμία *epithumía*; gen. *epithumías*, fem. noun from *epithuméō* (1937), to desire greatly. Strong desire, longing, lust.

(I) Generally longing (Luke 22:15; Phil. 1:23; 1 Thess. 2:17; Rev. 18:14; Sept.: Prov. 10:24; 11:23; Dan. 9:23; 10:3, 11).

(II) More frequently in a bad sense, irregular and inordinate desire, appetite, lust.

(A) Generally (Mark 4:19; Rom. 6:12; 7:7, 8; 13:14, “for its lusts” [a.t.], i.e., to satisfy the carnal appetites; Col. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:9; 2 Tim. 3:6; 4:3; Titus 3:3; James 1:14, 15; 1 Pet. 1:14; 4:2, 3; 2 Pet. 1:4; 3:3; Jude 1:16, 18). The lust of the flesh means carnal desires, appetites (Gal. 5:16, 24; Eph. 2:3; 2 Pet. 2:18; 1 John 2:16). Also *epithumíai sarkikai* (4559), carnal, fleshly (1 Pet. 2:11) referring to worldly desires; desires of the eyes (1 John 2:16); polluted desires (2 Pet. 2:10); “lusts of deceit” (a.t.) means “deceitful lusts” (Eph. 4:22); “youthful lusts” (2 Tim. 2:22); see Sept.: Prov. 21:25, 26. All these refer to the desires which are fixed on sensual objects as pleasures, profits, honors.

(B) Spoken of impure desire, lewdness (Rom. 1:24; 1 Thess. 4:5).

(C) By metonymy, lust, i.e., an object of impure desire, that which is lusted after (John 8:44; 1 John 2:17; Sept.: Dan. 11:37).¹

gen (genitive)

Sept (Septuagint)

Sept (Septuagint)

Sept (Septuagint)

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).



noun. an inordinate, self-indulgent craving (that displaces proper affections for God).

ἐπιθυμία «*epithymia*; ἐπιθυμία κακή «*epithymia kakē*

- Mk 4:19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the **desires** for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.
- Jn 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's **desires**. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
- Ro 1:24 Therefore God gave them up in the **lusts** of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,
- Ro 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its **passions**.
- Ro 7:7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known **what it is to covet** if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."
- Ro 7:8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of **covetousness**. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.
- Ro 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its **desires**.
- Ga 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify **the desires** of the flesh.
- Ga 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and **desires**.
- Eph 2:3 among whom we all once lived in the **passions** of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
- Eph 4:22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful **desires**,
- Col 3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, **evil desire**, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- 1 Th 4:5 not in the passion of **lust** like the Gentiles who do not know God;
- 2 Ti 3:6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various **passions**,
- 2 Ti 4:3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own **passions**,
- Tt 3:3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various **passions** and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.
- 1 Pe 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the **passions** of your former ignorance,
- 1 Pe 4:2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human **passions** but for the will of God.
- 1 Pe 4:3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, **passions**, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.
- 2 Pe 1:4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful **desire**.
- 2 Pe 2:10 and especially those who indulge in **the lust** of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,
- 2 Pe 3:3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own **sinful desires**.
- 1 Jn 2:17 And the world is passing away along with its **desires**, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
- Jud 16 These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own **sinful desires**; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.
- Jud 18 They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly **passions**."