



Cravings | 1 Corinthians 10:6; Numbers 11:4-9

As we move into looking at some of the specific examples of Israel's struggle to move into the promised land, we are confronted with the issue of desires.

Specifically, the Greek word "epithumia" or lust is used to describe Paul's challenge in verse 6 of 1 Corinthians 10. In Numbers 11, the word used is "crave." If we are going to move into the promised life that God has for us, it requires looking at the issue of desires/cravings. It begins with being honest about the fact that we have desires/struggles that seem to be out of control.

Without sharing the specific (unless you'd like to), can you relate to the concept of having cravings?

READ/REFLECT

Read 1 Corinthians 10:6 and then look at the most likely referent in Numbers 11:4-9.

What stands out about the Israelite's "strong cravings?" What was the basis of these cravings?

How do you see those same dynamics at play in our cravings/desires?

How do we struggle with relying upon "selective information"? Give real examples.

How does the desire to be independent enter the equation?

The power of sin grows in certain environments ... look at the following passages and describe the ways that the "craving for evil" is fostered. Romans 6:11-14; Romans 8:1-2; James 5:16

The power of our new life also grows in certain environments ...

How does "knowing who we are" (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:1-4) shape us? What kind of disciplines do we need to employ to reinforce the truth in our lives?

How do we cultivate and pay attention to our desires for Christ? (consider Psalm 37:1-4)

Feeling desire and embracing our powerlessness are key in the process. What scares you about entering into powerlessness? How can you see that being important?

RESPOND

What specifically will you take away from this passage? How and when will you apply that truth?

REACH OUT in prayer

Ask each person in the group to share how others can pray for them to apply these truths to their lives.