

Dear Open Door Family,

What is the difference between a want and a need? In my vocabulary, on a daily basis, I have taken the things I WANT (a hamburger, or a new shirt) and reclassified them as NEEDS. I did not do it purposely - part of it is that the advertising all around us tells us that we NEED this or that or the other thing. So, it is easy to slip into the way our culture defines needs. That, of course, is a huge problem when we start talking about what we actually NEED to live and thrive as a follower of Jesus Christ. Perhaps this verse can help us think this through just a bit further.

Romans 8:32 *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (NIV)*

Romans 8:32 *Since God did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else? (NLT)*

Too many times we Believe God IS Withholding something Good from us. This verse says the opposite. God did not hold back; He gave up His Son to be tortured and killed for us. If He did that for us, how can we possibly think He would hold back anything we need. Perhaps we need to look more closely at what WE THINK we need. Maybe we should contemplate that which WE believe we must have in order to live. Maybe it is a better car, or a better relationship with family, or a better marriage, or the chance to take a vacation. The problem with defining our NEEDS like this is that we give in the cultural view of what God should be like. Our culture says God should be this great big loving Santa Clause kind of God. He should never demand sacrifice from me and should always make me feel good and supply all my wants. Contrast that with this verse and the price God paid for our salvation. Also remember this is the Almighty All Knowing God. He knows what we actually NEED and that does not always match of with what we want. I love this quote from John Piper's book Future Grace:

"Surely if He would not spare His own Son one stroke, one tear, one groan, one sigh, one circumstance of misery, it can never be imagined that ever He should, after this deny or withhold from His people, for whose sakes all this was suffered, any mercies, any comforts, any privilege, spiritual or earthly, WHICH IS GOOD FOR THEM." (p. 117)

PRAYER: Lord, thank You that ANY Fear I have can be given entirely into Your Powerful and Capable hands. You have not held back any pain from Your Son Jesus so that I could be forgiven. Thank You that I can trust You to Give me everything I need to live for You and to Enjoy You fully.

Pastor Mark Kieft

