

**HEALTHY  
DESIRE**  
is FOR the  
BELOVED

**HEALTHY**

**DESIRE**

**UNHEALTHY**

**UNHEALTHY  
DESIRE**  
is FOR  
ME

Healthy desire sees, with great clarity, appreciation—even reverence and devotion—what (or who) it desires. It upholds, uplifts, and benefits the beloved in many ways. It steals nothing from the beloved, but passionately works to give to the beloved. This is the heart's way and desire.

It is healthy to want a person for who they are in their wholeness. That alone feeds and strengthens them, and makes them feel *truly* desirable. When you see someone for who they are, you naturally want them. And you're moved to love and support them *in their entirety*. That's healthy desire: it's for *them*, not you.

The heart of humanity is driven to create happiness for others. That moves us to develop skills and create things that bring joy, delight, pleasure, relief, comfort, healing. This is the healthy form of desire for self-improvement.

**HEALTHY  
DESIRE**  
FILLS the  
ONE WHO  
DESIRES

*Strong, healthy desire is our natural response to seeing and loving the beauty of people around us. Moved by love, we want each other, and give freely of ourselves. God made us that way.*

FOR WHO?  
(AND FOR  
WHOSE  
BENEFIT?)

DESIRE FOR  
A FRIEND  
OR  
A LOVER

TO ADD TO  
ONESELF  
OR BECOME  
SOMETHING

Desire is unhealthy when we desire from a selfish, separate point of view—focusing on our own interests and pleasures to the exclusion of others. "I'll pursue what I want. And if my gain means their loss, that's okay." That ignores the heart's desire to help, heal, uplift, to create closeness & harmony.

From a separate, selfish point of view, you think of your friends or lovers as "for me, to fill my needs." You may appreciate their beautiful qualities, but only inasmuch as you can *have* them. Just wanting what you want, you don't honor the tree that produces these fruits for you. ("You don't want me, Harold, you just want my \_\_\_\_!")

Unhealthy desire pursues skills and objects in a selfish spirit: "This will add to me. This will improve me. It will make me somebody. It will help me get what I want." It's not to serve others, just to serve oneself.

*Unhealthy desire fades when we feel guilty for desiring too selfishly. Desire is weak when the object of desire is of relatively little value to the spirit. Desire is crippled if we are conflicted because we don't WANT to desire as much as we do.*

**UNHEALTHY  
DESIRE**  
EXTENDS  
LACK