

# NEEDS vs. WANTS vs. DESIRES

***“But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content” (1 Timothy 6:8).***

The Lord instructs us to be content when our basic needs are met. It is important to understand the difference between a need, a want and a desire. Needs are the basic necessities of life—food, clothing and shelter. Wants are useful, but not necessary for survival, while desires are typically more extravagant. God may allow us to have some of our wants and desires, but He has not promised to provide all of them. For example:

|                       | <b>Needs</b>                      | <b>Wants</b>           | <b>Desires</b>                     |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Clothing</b>       | Discount Store or Used Clothing   | Department Store       | Designer Labels or Custom-Tailored |
| <b>Food</b>           | Tuna                              | Shrimp                 | Lobster                            |
| <b>Transportation</b> | Used Car or Public Transportation | New or Used Luxury Car | New Luxury Vehicle                 |

In the space below, fill in your Desires in the third column. Then see if you can work your way back to the real need and basic necessity. We’ve started the categories list for you and left space for you to add your own.

| <b>Category</b>       | <b>Needs</b> | <b>Wants</b> | <b>Desires</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Clothing</b>       |              |              |                |
| <b>Food</b>           |              |              |                |
| <b>Transportation</b> |              |              |                |
|                       |              |              |                |
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***Now, commit to praying for contentment and peace over your list.***