

mercEmail

"He delights in mercy" (Micah 7:18)

Wants -vs- Needs

by Steve Higginbotham

My wife does most of the shopping in our family. With four children, at times, that can be quite a feat. As she walks up and down aisles, little hands reach for toys, cereal boxes, and Pokemon cards. Apparently, my wife has heard more than her fair share of, "Mommy, I need..." Consequently, she has tried hard to instill in our children, a difference between "wanting" something and "needing" something. How do I know? Because I will frequently be corrected by my five year old as he will say, "Daddy, you may want that, but you don't need it."

My wife's done a good job. If you were to ask me right after being corrected by a five year old, I might say, "Too good of a job." But I'm constantly amazed at how many glimpses of God one can see in their children if they just look and listen. I wonder how differently God would view my "want" list and my "need" list from how I would view them.

- I want prosperity, but I may need poverty in order to seek God's wealth
- I want good health, but I may need illness in order to long for heaven.
- I want abundance, but I may need inadequacy in order to depend more on God.
- I want success, but I may need to experience failure in order to be humble before God.
- I want acceptance, but I may need rejection in order to better understand how God must feel.
- I want security, but I may need to feel insecure in order to lean more heavily upon God.
- I want power, but I may need weakness in order to rely upon God's power.

Yes, my boy's right. There are probably a lot of things I want that I really don't need. What about you?